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(71) Applicant: NOVO NORDISK A/S
2880 Bagsvaerd (DK)

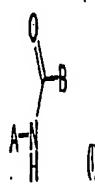
(72) Inventors:
• Lau, Jesper F.
3520 Farum (DK)
• Vedso, Per
3500 Vaerlose (DK)
• Kodra, Janos Tibor
2100 Copenhagen O (DK)
• Murray, Anthony
2900 Hellerup (DK)
• Jeppesen, Lone
2830 Virum (DK)

- Ankersen, Michael
3660 Stenlose (DK)
- Subramanian, Govindan
High Point, NC 27265 (US)
- Mjalli, Adnan M. M.
Jamestown, NC 27282 (US)
- Andrews, Robert Carl
Jamestown, NC 27282 (US)
- Polisetti, Dharmra Rao
High Point, NC 27265 (US)
- Christen, Daniel Peter
High Point, NC 27265 (US)

(74) Representative: Nielsen, Lars Balzer
Novo Nordisk A/S
Corporate Patents
Novo Allée
2880 Bagsvaerd (DK)

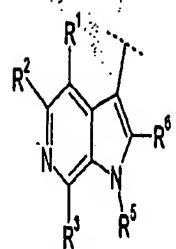
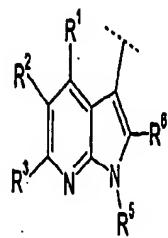
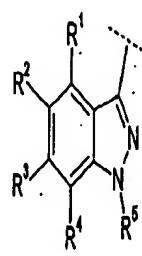
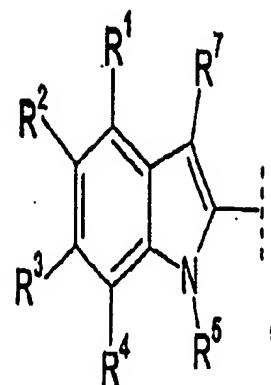
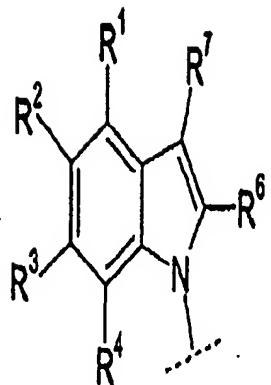
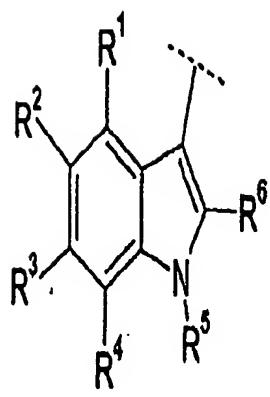
(54) N-heteroaryl indole carboxamides and analogues thereof, for use as glucokinase activators
in the treatment of diabetes

(57) This invention relates to compounds that are activators of glucokinase and thus may be useful for the management, treatment, control, or adjunct treatment of diseases, where increasing glucokinase activity is beneficial, such as diabetes. The compounds are of the general formula (I)



wherein B is

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and A is heteroaryl as defined in the claims.

Description**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

5 [0001] This invention relates to compounds that are activators of glucokinase and thus may be useful for the management, treatment, control, or adjunct treatment of diseases, where increasing glucokinase activity is beneficial.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 [0002] Diabetes is characterised by an impaired glucose metabolism manifesting itself among other things by an elevated blood glucose level in the diabetic patients. Underlying defects lead to a classification of diabetes into two major groups: Type 1 diabetes, or insulin demanding diabetes mellitus (IDDM), which arises when patients lack β -cells producing insulin in their pancreatic glands, and type 2 diabetes, or non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM), which occurs in patients with an impaired β -cell function besides a range of other abnormalities.

15 [0003] Type 1 diabetic patients are currently treated with insulin, while the majority of type 2 diabetic patients are treated either with sulphonylureas that stimulate β -cell function or with agents that enhance the tissue sensitivity of the patients towards insulin or with insulin. Among the agents applied to enhance tissue sensitivity towards insulin metformin is a representative example.

20 [0004] Even though sulphonylureas are widely used in the treatment of NIDDM this therapy is, in most instances, not satisfactory: In a large number of NIDDM patients sulphonylureas do not suffice to normalise blood sugar levels and the patients are, therefore, at high risk for acquiring diabetic complications. Also, many patients gradually lose the ability to respond to treatment with sulphonylureas and are thus gradually forced into insulin treatment. This shift of patients from oral hypoglycaemic agents to insulin therapy is usually ascribed to exhaustion of the β -cells in NIDDM patients.

25 [0005] In normal subjects as well as in diabetic subjects, the liver produces glucose in order to avoid hypoglycaemia. This glucose production is derived either from the release of glucose from glycogen stores or from gluconeogenesis, which is a de novo intracellular synthesis of glucose. In type 2 diabetes, however, the regulation of hepatic glucose output is poorly controlled and is increased, and may be doubled after an overnight fast. Moreover, in these patients there exists a strong correlation between the increased fasting plasma glucose levels and the rate of hepatic glucose production. Similarly, hepatic glucose production will be increased in type 1 diabetes, if the disease is not properly controlled by insulin treatment.

30 [0006] Since existing forms of therapy of diabetes does not lead to sufficient glycaemic control and therefore are unsatisfactory, there is a great demand for novel therapeutic approaches.

35 [0007] Atherosclerosis, a disease of the arteries, is recognized to be the leading cause of death in the United States and Western Europe. The pathological sequence leading to atherosclerosis and occlusive heart disease is well known. The earliest stage in this sequence is the formation of "fatty streaks" in the carotid, coronary and cerebral arteries and in the aorta. These lesions are yellow in colour due to the presence of lipid deposits found principally within smooth-muscle cells and in macrophages of the intima layer of the arteries and aorta. Further, it is postulated that most of the cholesterol found within the fatty streaks, in turn, give rise to development of the "fibrous plaque", which consists of 40 accumulated intimal smooth muscle cells laden with lipid and surrounded by extra-cellular lipid, collagen, elastin and proteoglycans. The cells plus matrix form a fibrous cap that covers a deeper deposit of cell debris and more extracellular lipid. The lipid is primarily free and esterified cholesterol. The fibrous plaque forms slowly, and is likely in time to become calcified and necrotic, advancing to the "complicated lesion" which accounts for the arterial occlusion and tendency toward mural thrombosis and arterial muscle spasm that characterize advanced atherosclerosis.

45 [0008] Epidemiological evidence has firmly established hyperlipidemia as a primary risk factor in causing cardiovascular disease (CVD) due to atherosclerosis. In recent years, leaders of the medical profession have placed renewed emphasis on lowering plasma cholesterol levels, and low density lipoprotein cholesterol in particular, as an essential step in prevention of CVD. The upper limits of "normal" are now known to be significantly lower than heretofore appreciated. As a result, large segments of Western populations are now realized to be at particular high risk. Independent 50 risk factors include glucose intolerance, left ventricular hypertrophy, hypertension, and being of the male sex. Cardio-vascular disease is especially prevalent among diabetic subjects, at least in part because of the existence of multiple independent risk factors in this population. Successful treatment of hyperlipidemia in the general population, and in diabetic subjects in particular, is therefore of exceptional medical importance.

55 [0009] Hypertension (or high blood pressure) is a condition, which occurs in the human population as a secondary symptom to various other disorders such as renal artery stenosis, pheochromocytoma, or endocrine disorders. However, hypertension is also evidenced in many patients in whom the causative agent or disorder is unknown. While such "essential" hypertension is often associated with disorders such as obesity, diabetes, and hypertriglyceridemia, the relationship between these disorders has not been elucidated. Additionally, many patients display the symptoms of

high blood pressure in the complete absence of any other signs of disease or disorder.

[0010] It is known that hypertension can directly lead to heart failure, renal failure, and stroke (brain haemorrhaging). These conditions are capable of causing short-term death in a patient. Hypertension can also contribute to the development of atherosclerosis and coronary disease. These conditions gradually weaken a patient and can lead to long-term death.

[0011] The exact cause of essential hypertension is unknown, though a number of factors are believed to contribute to the onset of the disease. Among such factors are stress, uncontrolled emotions, unregulated hormone release (the renin, angiotensin aldosterone system), excessive salt and water due to kidney malfunction, wall thickening and hypertrophy of the vasculature resulting in constricted blood vessels and genetic factors.

[0012] The treatment of essential hypertension has been undertaken bearing the foregoing factors in mind. Thus a broad range of beta-blockers, vasoconstrictors, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and the like have been developed and marketed as antihypertensives. The treatment of hypertension utilizing these compounds has proven beneficial in the prevention of short-interval deaths such as heart failure, renal failure, and brain haemorrhaging. However, the development of atherosclerosis or heart disease due to hypertension over a long period of time remains a problem. This implies that although high blood pressure is being reduced, the underlying cause of essential hypertension is not responding to this treatment.

[0013] Hypertension has been associated with elevated blood insulin levels, a condition known as hyperinsulinemia. Insulin, a peptide hormone whose primary actions are to promote glucose utilization, protein synthesis and the formation and storage of neutral lipids, also acts to promote vascular cell growth and increase renal sodium retention, among other things. These latter functions can be accomplished without affecting glucose levels and are known causes of hypertension. Peripheral vasculature growth, for example, can cause constriction of peripheral capillaries, while sodium retention increases blood volume. Thus, the lowering of insulin levels in hyperinsulinemics can prevent abnormal vascular growth and renal sodium retention caused by high insulin levels and thereby alleviates hypertension.

[0014] Cardiac hypertrophy is a significant risk factor in the development of sudden death, myocardial infarction, and congestive heart failure. These cardiac events are due, at least in part, to increased susceptibility to myocardial injury after ischemia and reperfusion, which can occur in out-patient as well as perioperative settings. There is an unmet medical need to prevent or minimize adverse myocardial perioperative outcomes, particularly perioperative myocardial infarction. Both non-cardiac and cardiac surgery are associated with substantial risks for myocardial infarction or death. Some 7 million patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery are considered to be at risk, with incidences of perioperative death and serious cardiac complications as high as 20-25% in some series. In addition, of the 400,000 patients undergoing coronary by-pass surgery annually, perioperative myocardial infarction is estimated to occur in 5% and death in 1-2%. There is currently no drug therapy in this area, which reduces damage to cardiac tissue from perioperative myocardial ischemia or enhances cardiac resistance to ischemic episodes. Such a therapy is anticipated to be life-saving and reduce hospitalizations, enhance quality of life and reduce overall health care costs of high risk patients.

[0015] Obesity is a well-known risk factor for the development of many very common diseases such as atherosclerosis, hypertension, and diabetes. The incidence of obese people and thereby also these diseases is increasing throughout the entire industrialised world. Except for exercise, diet and food restriction no convincing pharmacological treatment for reducing body weight effectively and acceptably currently exists. However, due to its indirect but important effect as a risk factor in mortal and common diseases it will be important to find treatment for obesity and/or means of appetite regulation.

[0016] The term obesity implies an excess of adipose tissue. In this context obesity is best viewed as any degree of excess adiposity that imparts a health risk. The cut off between normal and obese individuals can only be approximated, but the health risk imparted by the obesity is probably a continuum with increasing adiposity. The Framingham study demonstrated that a 20% excess over desirable weight clearly imparted a health risk (Mann GV N Engl J Med 291: 226, 1974). In the United States a National Institutes of Health consensus panel on obesity agreed that a 20% increase in relative weight or a body mass index (BMI = body weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in meters) above the 85th percentile for young adults constitutes a health risk. By the use of these criteria 20 to 30 percent of adult men and 30 to 40 percent of adult women in the United States are obese. (NIH, Ann Intern Med 103:147, 1985).

[0017] Even mild obesity increases the risk for premature death, diabetes, hypertension, atherosclerosis, gallbladder disease, and certain types of cancer. In the industrialised western world the prevalence of obesity has increased significantly in the past few decades. Because of the high prevalence of obesity and its health consequences, its prevention and treatment should be a high public health priority.

[0018] When energy intake exceeds expenditure, the excess calories are stored in adipose tissue, and if this net positive balance is prolonged, obesity results, i.e. there are two components to weight balance, and an abnormality on either side (intake or expenditure) can lead to obesity.

[0019] The regulation of eating behaviour is incompletely understood. To some extent appetite is controlled by discrete areas in the hypothalamus: a feeding centre in the ventro-lateral nucleus of the hypothalamus (VLH) and a satiety centre in the ventromedial hypothalamus (VMH). The cerebral cortex receives positive signals from the feeding centre

that stimulate eating, and the satiety centre modulates this process by sending inhibitory impulses to the feeding centre. Several regulatory processes may influence these hypothalamic centres. The satiety centre may be activated by the increases in plasma glucose and/or insulin that follow a meal. Meal-induced gastric distension is another possible inhibitory factor. Additionally the hypothalamic centres are sensitive to catecholamines, and beta-adrenergic stimulation inhibits eating behaviour. Ultimately, the cerebral cortex controls eating behaviour, and impulses from the feeding centre to the cerebral cortex are only one input. Psychological, social, and genetic factors also influence food intake. At present a variety of techniques are available to effect initial weight loss. Unfortunately, initial weight loss is not an optimal therapeutic goal. Rather, the problem is that most obese patients eventually regain their weight. An effective means to establish and/or sustain weight loss is the major challenge in the treatment of obesity today.

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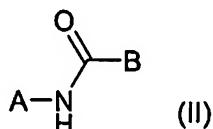
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0020] One object of the present invention is to provide compounds that are activators of glucokinase and thus may be useful for the management, treatment, control, or adjunct treatment of diseases where increasing glucokinase activity is beneficial.

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[0021] It is another object of the present invention to provide a pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, at least one compound according to the present invention together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients. It is another object of the present invention to provide use of a compound represented by the general formula (II)

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wherein A and B are defined below, as well as any salt hereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or any optical isomer or mixture of optical isomers, including a racemic mixture, or any tautomeric forms, for the preparation of a medicament for increasing the activity of glucokinase.

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[0022] Furthermore it is an object of the invention to provide the use of a compound of the invention for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of metabolic disorders, for blood glucose lowering, for the treatment of hyperglycemia, for the treatment of IGT, for the treatment of Syndrome X, for the treatment of impaired fasting glucose (IFG), for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, for the treatment of type 1 diabetes, for delaying the progression of impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) to type 2 diabetes, for delaying the progression of non-insulin requiring type 2 diabetes to insulin requiring type 2 diabetes, for the treatment of dyslipidemia, for the treatment of hyperlipidemia, for the treatment of hypertension, for lowering of food intake, for appetite regulation, for the treatment of obesity, for regulating feeding behaviour, or for enhancing the secretion of enteroincretins.

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[0023] These and further objects of the invention will become apparent during the following detailed description.

DEFINITIONS

[0024] In the structural formulas given herein and throughout the present specification, the following terms have the indicated meaning:

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[0025] The term "optionally substituted" as used herein means that the moiety which is optionally substituted is either unsubstituted or substituted with one or more of the substituents specified. When the moiety in question is substituted with more than one substituent, the substituent may be the same or different.

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[0026] The term "adjacent" as used herein regards the relative positions of two atoms or variables, these two atoms or variables sharing a bond or one variable preceding or succeeding the other in a variable specification. By way of example, "atom A adjacent to atom B" means that the two atoms A and B share a bond.

[0027] The term "halogen" or "halo" means fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine.

[0028] The term "perhalomethyl" means trifluoromethyl, trichloromethyl, tribromomethyl, or triiodomethyl.

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[0029] The use of prefixes of this structure: C_{x-y} -alkyl, C_{x-y} -alkenyl, C_{x-y} -alkynyl, C_{x-y} -cycloalkyl or C_{x-y} -cycloalkyl- C_{x-y} -alkenyl- designates radical of the designated type having from x to y carbon atoms.

55

[0030] The term "alkyl" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a straight or branched chain saturated monovalent hydrocarbon radical having from one to ten carbon atoms, for example C_{1-8} -alkyl or C_{1-6} -alkyl. Typical C_{1-8} -alkyl groups and C_{1-6} -alkyl groups include, but are not limited to e.g. methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl,

sec-butyl, isobutyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, 2-methylbutyl, 3-methylbutyl, 4-methylpentyl, neopentyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, 1,2-dimethylpropyl, 2,2-dimethylpropyl, 1,2,2-trimethylpropyl and the like. The term "C₁₋₈-alkyl" as used herein also includes secondary C₃₋₈-alkyl and tertiary C₄₋₈-alkyl. The term "C₁₋₆-alkyl" as used herein also includes secondary C₃₋₆-alkyl and tertiary C₄₋₆-alkyl.

5 [0031] The term "alkylene" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a straight or branched chain saturated divalent hydrocarbon radical having from one to ten carbon atoms, for example C₁₋₈-alkylene or C₁₋₆-alkylene. Examples of "alkylene" as used herein include, but are not limited to, methylene, ethylene, and the like.

10 [0032] The term "alkenyl" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a straight or branched chain monovalent hydrocarbon radical containing from two to ten carbon atoms and at least one carbon-carbon double bond, for example C₂₋₈-alkenyl or C₂₋₆-alkenyl. Typical C₂₋₈-alkenyl groups and C₂₋₆-alkenyl groups include, but are not limited to, vinyl, 1-propenyl, 2-propenyl, iso-propenyl, 1,3-butadienyl, 1-butenyl, 2-butenyl, 3-butenyl, 2-methyl-1-propenyl, 1-pentenyl, 2-pentenyl, 3-pentenyl, 4-pentenyl, 3-methyl-2-butenyl, 1-hexenyl, 2-hexenyl, 3-hexenyl, 2,4-hexadienyl, 5-hexenyl and the like.

15 [0033] The term "alkenylene" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a straight or branched chain divalent hydrocarbon radical having from two to ten carbon atoms and at least one carbon-carbon double bond, for example C₂₋₈-alkenylene or C₂₋₆-alkenylene. Typical C₂₋₈-alkenylene groups and C₂₋₆-alkenylene groups include, but are not limited to, ethene-1,2-diyl, propene-1,3-diyl, methylene-1,1-diyl, and the like.

20 [0034] The term "alkynyl" as used herein alone or in combination, refers to a straight or branched monovalent hydrocarbon radical containing from two to ten carbon atoms and at least one triple carbon-carbon bond, for example C₂₋₈-alkynyl or C₂₋₆-alkynyl. Typical C₂₋₈-alkynyl groups and C₂₋₆-alkynyl groups include, but are not limited to, ethynyl, 1-propynyl, 2-propynyl, 1-butynyl, 2-butynyl, 3-butynyl, 1-pentynyl, 2-pentynyl, 3-pentynyl, 4-pentynyl, 1-hexynyl, 2-hexynyl, 3-hexynyl, 5-hexynyl, 2,4-hexadiynyl and the like.

25 [0035] The term "alkynylene" as used herein alone or in combination, refers to a straight or branched chain divalent hydrocarbon radical having from two to ten carbon atoms and at least one carbon-carbon triple bond, for example C₂₋₈-alkynylene or C₂₋₆-alkynylene. Typical C₂₋₈-alkynylene groups and C₂₋₆-alkynylene groups include, but are not limited to, ethyne-1,2-diyl, propyne-1,3-diyl, and the like.

30 [0036] The term "cycloalkyl" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a nonaromatic monovalent hydrocarbon radical having from three to twelve carbon atoms, and optionally with one or more degrees of unsaturation, for example C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl. Such a ring may be optionally fused to one or more benzene rings or to one or more of other cycloalkyl ring(s). Typical C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl groups include, but are not limited to, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexenyl, cycloheptyl, cycloheptenyl, cyclooctyl and the like.

35 [0037] The term "cycloalkylene" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a nonaromatic carbocyclic divalent hydrocarbon radical having from three to twelve carbon atoms and optionally possessing one or more degrees of unsaturation, for example C₃₋₈-cycloalkylene. Such a ring may be optionally fused to one or more benzene rings or to one or more of other cycloalkyl ring(s). Typical C₃₋₈-cycloalkylene groups include, but are not limited to, cyclopropyl-1,1-diyl, cyclopropyl-1,2-diyl, cyclobutyl-1,2-diyl, cyclopentyl-1,3-diyl, cyclohexyl-1,4-diyl, cycloheptyl-1,4-diyl, or cyclooctyl-1,5-diyl, and the like.

40 [0038] The term "heterocyclic" or the term "heterocyclyl" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a three to twelve membered heterocyclic ring having one or more degrees of unsaturation containing one or more heteroatomic substitutions selected from S, SO, SO₂, O, or N, for example C₃₋₈-heterocyclyl. Such a ring may be optionally fused to one or more of another "heterocyclic" ring(s) or cycloalkyl ring(s). Typical C₃₋₈-heterocyclyl groups include, but are not limited to, tetrahydrofuran, 1,4-dioxane, 1,3-dioxane, piperidine, pyrrolidine, morpholine, piperazine, and the like.

45 [0039] The term "heterocyclylene" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a three to twelve-membered heterocyclic ring diradical optionally having one or more degrees of unsaturation containing one or more heteroatoms selected from S, SO, SO₂, O, or N. Such a ring may be optionally fused to one or more benzene rings or to one or more of another "heterocyclic" rings or cycloalkyl rings. Examples of "heterocyclylene" include, but are not limited to, tetrahydrofuran-2,5-diyl, morpholine-2,3-diyl, pyran-2,4-diyl, 1,4-dioxane-2,3-diyl, 1,3-dioxane-2,4-diyl, piperidine-2,4-diyl, piperidine-1,4-diyl, pyrrolidine-1,3-diyl, morpholine-2,4-diyl, piperazine-1,4-diyl, and the like.

50 [0040] The term "alkoxy" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to the monovalent radical R^aO-, where R^a is alkyl as defined above, for example C₁₋₈-alkyl giving C₁₋₈-alkoxy. Typical C₁₋₈-alkoxy groups include, but are not limited to, methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, isopropoxy, butoxy, sec-butoxy, tert-butoxy, pentoxy, isopentoxy, hexoxy, iso-hexoxy and the like.

55 [0041] The term "alkylthio" as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a straight or branched monovalent radical comprising an alkyl group as described above linked through a divalent sulphur atom having its free valence bond from the sulphur atom, for example C₁₋₈-alkylthio. Typical C₁₋₈-alkylthio groups include, but are not limited to, methylthio, ethylthio, propylthio, butylthio, pentylthio, hexylthio and the like.

[0042] The term "alkoxycarbonyl" as used herein refers to the monovalent radical R^aOC(O)-, where R^a is alkyl as described above, for example C₁₋₈-alkoxycarbonyl. Typical C₁₋₈-alkoxycarbonyl groups include, but are not limited to,

methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, propoxycarbonyl, isopropoxycarbonyl, n-butoxycarbonyl, sec-butoxycarbonyl, ter-butoxycarbonyl, 3-methylbutoxycarbonyl, n-hexoxycarbonyl and the like.

[0043] The term "carbamoyl" as used herein refers to $\text{NH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})-$.

[0044] The term "aryl" as used herein refers to a carbocyclic aromatic ring radical or to a aromatic ring system radical.

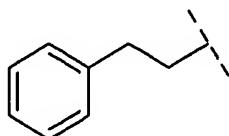
5 Aryl is also intended to include the partially hydrogenated derivatives of the carbocyclic systems.

[0045] The term "heteroaryl", as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to an aromatic ring radical with for instance 5 to 7 member atoms, or to a aromatic ring system radical with for instance from 7 to 18 member atoms, containing one or more heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen, or sulfur heteroatoms, wherein N-oxides and sulfur monoxides and sulfur dioxides are permissible heteroaromatic substitutions; such as e.g. furanyl, thienyl, thiophenyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, iso-thiazolyl, pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiophenyl, indolyl, and indazolyl, and the like. Heteroaryl is also intended to include the partially hydrogenated derivatives of the heterocyclic systems enumerated below.

[0046] Examples of "aryl" and "heteroaryl" includes, but are not limited to phenyl, biphenyl, indene, fluorene, naphthyl (1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl), anthracene (1-anthracenyl, 2-anthracenyl, 3-anthracenyl), thiophene (2-thienyl, 3-thienyl), furyl (2-furyl, 3-furyl), indolyl, oxadiazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiadiazolyl, oxatriazolyl, thiatriazolyl, quinazolin, fluorenyl, xanthenyl, isoindanyl, benzhydryl, acridinyl, thiazolyl, pyrrolyl (1-pyrrolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl), pyrazolyl (1-pyrazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 4-pyrazolyl, 5-pyrazolyl), imidazolyl (1-imidazolyl, 2-imidazolyl, 4-imidazolyl, 5-imidazolyl), triazolyl (1,2,3-triazol-1-yl, 1,2,3-triazol-4-yl, 1,2,3-triazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-triazol-5-yl), oxazolyl (2-oxazolyl, 4-oxazolyl, 5-oxazolyl), isooxazolyl (isooxazo-3-yl, isooxazo-4-yl, isooxaz-5-yl), isothiazolyl (isothiazo-3-yl, isothiazo-4-yl, isothiaz-5-yl) thiazolyl (2-thiazolyl, 4-thiazolyl, 5-thiazolyl), pyridyl (2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl), pyrimidinyl (2-pyrimidinyl, 4-pyrimidinyl, 5-pyrimidinyl, 6-pyrimidinyl), pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl (3-pyridazinyl, 4-pyridazinyl, 5-pyridazinyl), quinolyl (2-quinolyl, 3-quinolyl, 4-quinolyl, 5-quinolyl, 6-quinolyl, 7-quinolyl, 8-quinolyl), isoquinolyl (1-isoquinolyl, 3-isoquinolyl, 4-isoquinolyl, 5-isoquinolyl, 6-isoquinolyl, 7-isoquinolyl, 8-isoquinolyl), benzo[b]furanyl (2-benzo[b]furanyl, 3-benzo[b]furanyl, 4-benzo[b]furanyl, 5-benzo[b]furanyl, 6-benzo[b]furanyl, 7-benzo[b]furanyl), 2,3-dihydro-benzo[b]furanyl (2-(2,3-dihydro-benzo[b]furanyl), 3-(2,3-dihydro-benzo[b]furanyl), 4-(2,3-dihydro-benzo[b]furanyl), 5-(2,3-dihydro-benzo[b]furanyl), 6-(2,3-dihydro-benzo[b]furanyl), 7-(2,3-dihydro-benzo[b]furanyl)), benzo[b]thiophenyl (benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl, benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl, benzo[b]thiophen-4-yl, benzo[b]thiophen-5-yl, benzo[b]thiophen-6-yl, benzo[b]thiophen-7-yl), 2,3-dihydro-benzo[b]thiophenyl (2,3-dihydro-benzo[b]thiophen-2-yl, 2,3-dihydro-benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl, 2,3-dihydro-benzo[b]thiophen-4-yl, 2,3-dihydro-benzo[b]thiophen-5-yl, 2,3-dihydro-benzo[b]thiophen-6-yl, 2,3-dihydro-benzo[b]thiophen-7-yl), indolyl (1-indolyl, 2-indolyl, 3-indolyl, 4-indolyl, 5-indolyl, 6-indolyl, 7-indolyl), indazole (1-indazolyl, 3-indazolyl, 4-indazolyl, 5-indazolyl, 6-indazolyl, 7-indazolyl), benzimidazolyl (1-benzimidazolyl, 2-benzimidazolyl, 4-benzimidazolyl, 5-benzimidazolyl, 6-benzimidazolyl, 7-benzimidazolyl, 8-benzimidazolyl), benzoxazolyl (2-benzoxazolyl, 3-benzoxazolyl, 4-benzoxazolyl, 5-benzoxazolyl, 6-benzoxazolyl, 7-benzoxazolyl), benzothiazolyl (2-benzothiazolyl, 4-benzothiazolyl, 5-benzothiazolyl, 6-benzothiazolyl, 7-benzothiazolyl), carbazolyl (1-carbazolyl, 2-carbazolyl, 3-carbazolyl, 4-carbazolyl), 5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine (5H-dibenz[b,f]azepin-1-yl, 5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-2-yl, 5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-3-yl, 5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-4-yl, 5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-yl), 10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine (10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-1-yl, 10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-2-yl, 10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-3-yl, 10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-4-yl, 10,11-dihydro-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-yl), benzo[1,3]dioxole (2-benzo[1,3]dioxole, 4-benzo[1,3]dioxole, 5-benzo[1,3]dioxole, 6-benzo[1,3]dioxole, 7-benzo[1,3]dioxole), purinyl, and tetrazolyl (5-tetrazolyl, N-tetrazolyl).

[0047] The present invention also relates to partly or fully saturated analogues of the ring systems mentioned above.

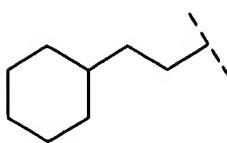
[0048] When two such terms are used in combination, such as in aryl-alkyl, heteroaryl-alkyl, cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl and the like, it is to be understood that the first mentioned radical is a substituent on the latter mentioned radical, where the point of substitution, i.e. the point of attachment to another part of the molecule, is on the latter of the radicals, for example



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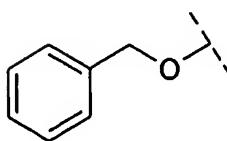
aryl-alkyl- : cycloalkyl-alkyl- :

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[0049] The term "arylene", as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to carbocyclic aromatic ring diradical or to a aromatic ring system diradical. Examples of "arylene" include, but are not limited to, benzene-1,4-diyl, naphthalene-1,8-diyl, and the like. The term "arylene" alone or in combination also include other divalent radicals of the monovalent radicals mentioned in the definition of ary.

[0050] The term "heteroarylene", as used herein, alone or in combination, refers to a five to seven membered aromatic ring diradical, or to a aromatic ring system diradical, containing one or more heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen, or sulfur heteroatoms, wherein N-oxides and sulfur monoxides and sulfur dioxides are permissible heteroaromatic substitutions. Examples of "heteroarylene" used herein are furan-2,5-diyl, thiophene-2,4-diyl, 1,3,4-oxadiazole-2,5-diyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazole-2,5-diyl, 1,3-thiazole-2,4-diyl, 1,3-thiazole-2,5-diyl, pyridine-2,4-diyl, pyridine-2,3-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, pyrimidine-2,4-diyl, quinoline-2,3-diyl, and the like. The term "heteroarylene" alone or in combination also include other divalent radicals of the monovalent radicals mentioned in the definition of heteroaryl.

[0051] The term "alkylsulfanyl", as used herein, refers to the group R^aS-, where R^a is alkyl as described above.

[0052] The term "alkylsulfonyl", as used herein, refers to the group R^aS(O)-, where R^a is alkyl as described above.

[0053] The term "alkylsulfonyl", as used herein, refers to the group R^aSO₂-, where R^a is alkyl as described above.

[0054] The term "acyl", as used herein, refers to the group R^aC(O)-, where R^a is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, or heterocyclyl as described above.

[0055] The term "acroyl", as used herein, refers to the group R^aC(O)-, where R^a is aryl as described above.

[0056] The term "heteroacroyl", as used herein, refers to the group R^aC(O)-, where R^a is heteroaryl as described above.

[0057] The term "aryloxycarbonyl", as used herein, refers to the group R^a-O-C(O)-, where R^a is aryl as described above.

[0058] The term "acyloxy", as used herein, refers to the group R^aC(O)O-, where R^a is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, or heterocyclyl as described above.

[0059] The term "aryloxy", as used herein refers to the group R^a-O-, where R^a is aryl as described above.

[0060] The term "acroyloxy", as used herein, refers to the group R^aC(O)O-, where R^a is aryl as described above.

[0061] The term "heteroacroyloxy", as used herein, refers to the group R^aC(O)O-, where R^a is heteroaryl as described above.

[0062] Whenever the terms "alkyl", "cycloalkyl", "aryl", "heteroaryl" or the like or either of their prefix roots appear in a name of a substituent (e.g. arylalkoxyaryloxy) they shall be interpreted as including those limitations given above for "alkyl" and "aryl".

[0063] As used herein, the term "oxo" shall refer to the substituent =O.

[0064] As used herein, the term "mercapto" shall refer to the substituent -SH.

[0065] As used herein, the term "carboxy" shall refer to the substituent -COOH.

[0066] As used herein, the term "cyano" shall refer to the substituent -CN.

[0067] As used herein, the term "aminosulfonyl" shall refer to the substituent -SO₂NH₂.

[0068] As used herein, the term "sulfanyl" shall refer to the substituent -S-.

[0069] As used herein, the term "sulfenyl" shall refer to the substituent -S(O)-.

[0070] As used herein, the term "sulfonyl" shall refer to the substituent -S(O)₂-.

[0071] As used herein, the term "direct bond", where part of a structural variable specification, refers to the direct joining of the substituents flanking (preceding and succeeding) the variable taken as a "direct bond".

[0072] The term "lower", as used herein, refers to an group having between one and six carbons, and may be indicated

with the prefix C_{x-6} . Lower alkyl may thus be indicated as C_{1-6} -alkyl, while lower alkylene may be indicated as C_{2-6} -alkylene.

[0073] A radical such as C_{x-y} -cycloalkyl- C_{a-b} -alkenyl shall designate that the radical's point of attachment is in part of the radical mentioned last.

5 [0074] As used herein, the term "optionally" means that the subsequently described event(s) may or may not occur, and includes both event(s) which occur and events that do not occur.

[0075] As used herein, the term "substituted" refers to substitution with the named substituent or substituents, multiple degrees of substitution being allowed unless otherwise stated.

10 [0076] As used herein, the term "attached" or "-" (e.g. -COR¹¹ which indicates the carbonyl attachment point to the scaffold) signifies a stable covalent bond.

[0077] As used herein, the terms "contain" or "containing" can refer to in-line substitutions at any position along the above defined alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or cycloalkyl substituents with one or more of any of O, S, SO, SO₂, N, or N-alkyl, including, for example, -CH₂-O-CH₂-, -CH₂-SO₂-CH₂-, -CH₂-NH-CH₃ and so forth.

15 [0078] Certain of the above defined terms may occur more than once in the structural formulae, and upon such occurrence each term shall be defined independently of the other.

[0079] As used herein, the term "solvate" is a complex of variable stoichiometry formed by a solute (in this invention, a compound of formula (I)) and a solvent. Such solvents for the purpose of the present invention may not interfere with the biological activity of the solute. Solvents may be, by way of example, water, ethanol, or acetic acid.

20 [0080] As used herein, the term "biohydrolyzable ester" is an ester of a drug substance (in this invention, a compound of formula (I)) which either a) does not interfere with the biological activity of the parent substance but confers on that substance advantageous properties in vivo such as duration of action, onset of action, and the like, or b) is biologically inactive but is readily converted in vivo by the subject to the biologically active principle. The advantage is that, for example, the biohydrolyzable ester is orally absorbed from the gut and is transformed to (I) in plasma. Many examples of such are known in the art and include by way of example lower alkyl esters (e.g., C₁₋₄), lower acyloxyalkyl esters, lower alkoxyacyloxyalkyl esters, alkoxyacyloxy esters, alkyl acylamino alkyl esters, and choline esters.

25 [0081] As used herein, the term "biohydrolyzable amide" is an amide of a drug substance (in this invention, a compound of general formula (I)) which either a) does not interfere with the biological activity of the parent substance but confers on that substance advantageous properties in vivo such as duration of action, onset of action, and the like, or b) is biologically inactive but is readily converted in vivo by the subject to the biologically active principle. The advantage is that, for example, the biohydrolyzable amide is orally absorbed from the gut and is transformed to (I) in plasma. Many examples of such are known in the art and include by way of example lower alkyl amides, α -amino acid amides, alkoxyacyl amides, and alkylaminoalkylcarbonyl amides.

30 [0082] As used herein, the term "prodrug" includes biohydrolyzable amides and biohydrolyzable esters and also encompasses a) compounds in which the biohydrolyzable functionality in such a prodrug is encompassed in the compound of formula (I) and b) compounds which may be oxidized or reduced biologically at a given functional group to yield drug substances of formula (I). Examples of these functional groups include, but are not limited to, 1,4-dihydropyridine, N-alkylcarbonyl-1,4-dihydropyridine, 1,4-cyclohexadiene, tert-butyl, and the like.

35 [0083] The term "pharmacologically effective amount" or shall mean that amount of a drug or pharmaceutical agent that will elicit the biological or medical response of a tissue, animal or human that is being sought by a researcher or clinician. This amount can be a therapeutically effective amount. The term "therapeutically effective amount" shall mean that amount of a drug or pharmaceutical agent that will elicit the therapeutic response of an animal or human that is being sought.

40 The term "treatment" and "treating" as used herein means the management and care of a patient for the purpose of combating a disease, disorder or condition. The term is intended to include the full spectrum of treatments for a given disorder from which the patient is suffering, such as the delaying of the progression of the disease, disorder or condition, the alleviation or relief of symptoms and complications, the prevention of the disease and/or the cure or elimination of the disease, disorder or condition. The patient to be treated is preferably a mammal, in particular a human being.

45 The term "human insulin" as used herein refers to naturally produced insulin or recombinantly produced insulin. Recombinant human insulin may be produced in any suitable host cell, for example the host cells may be bacterial, fungal (including yeast), insect, animal or plant cells.

50 [0084] The expression "insulin derivative" as used herein (and related expressions) refers to human insulin or an analogue thereof in which at least one organic substituent is bound to one or more of the amino acids.

55 [0085] By "analogue of human insulin" as used herein (and related expressions) is meant human insulin in which one or more amino acids have been deleted and/or replaced by other amino acids, including non-codeable amino acids, or human insulin comprising additional amino acids, i.e. more than 51 amino acids, such that the resulting analogue possesses insulin activity.

[0086] The term "acid-stabilised insulin" as used herein refers to an insulin analogue that does not deamidate or dimerize at pH values below 7. Specifically, the analogue cannot have Asn or Asp as a C-terminal residue.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0087] Glucokinase (GK) plays an essential role in blood glucose homeostasis. GK catalyses glucose phosphorylation, and is the rate-limiting reaction for glycolysis in hepatocytes and pancreatic β -cells. In liver GK determine the rates of both glucose uptake and glycogen synthesis, and it is also thought to be essential for the regulation of various glucose-responsive genes (Girard, J. et al., *Annu Rev Nutr* **17**, 325-352 (1997)). In the β -cells, GK determines glucose utilization and thus is necessary for glucose-stimulated insulin secretion. GK is also expressed in a population of neurones in the hypothalamus where it might be involved in feeding behaviour, and in the gut where it might contribute to the secretion of enteroincretins.

[0088] GK has two main distinctive characteristics: its expression, which is limited to tissues that require glucose-sensing (mainly liver and pancreatic β -cells), and its $S_{0.5}$ for glucose, which is much higher (8-12 mM) than that of the other members of the hexokinase family. Due to these kinetic characteristics, changes in serum glucose levels are paralleled by changes in glucose metabolism in liver which in turn regulate the balance between hepatic glucose output and glucose consumption.

[0089] Activators of glucokinase may thus be useful for treating diseases where increasing the activity of glucokinase is beneficial. Thus, there is a need for agents which activate glucokinase and increase glucokinase enzymatic activity. Such agents would be useful for the treatment of type I diabetes and type II diabetes.

[0090] Activators of glucokinase may also play a role in sensing low glucose levels and generating neurohumoral responses to hypoglycemia and may thus be useful for treating those patients with type 1 diabetes, which have a higher tendency to suffer from hypoglycemia.

[0091] Type I diabetes mellitus is a complex disease characterized by an elevated blood glucose concentration and polyuria. Secondary to the persistent elevation in blood glucose, patients develop devastating complications such as retinopathy, nephropathy, neuropathy, and cardiovascular disease. A major goal to improve the diabetic phenotype is to reduce fasting and postprandial hyperglycemia and, thus, avoid or delay the onset of diabetic complications. The Diabetes Control and Complications Trial has indicated that tight glycemic control through administration of daily multiple insulin injections delays the onset of complications. However, such intensive therapy is associated with an increase in body weight and higher risk for development of hypoglycaemic events. Alternative treatments to achieve glucose control without these side effects are, therefore, being developed. The combination of GK overexpression in the liver and subcutaneous insulin injections provides better glycemic control in type 1 diabetic animals than treatment with insulin alone (Morral, N., et al. *Human Gene Therapy* **13**, 1561-1570 (2002)). Moreover, overexpression of hepatic GK can compensate, in part, for the metabolic disorders developed by insulin receptor-deficient mice (Jackerott, M. et al. *Diabetologia* **45**, 1292-1297 (2002)).

[0092] The present invention also relates to the use of a GK activator for the combined treatment of diabetes and obesity. GK, the GK regulatory protein and the KATP channel are expressed in neurones of the hypothalamus, a region of the brain that is important in the regulation of energy balance and the control of food intake. These neurones have been shown to express orectic and anorectic neuropeptides and have been assumed to be the glucose-sensing neurones within the hypothalamus that are either inhibited or excited by changes in ambient glucose concentrations (Mobbs, C. V. et al, *American Journal of Physiology, Endocrinology & Metabolism* **281**, E649-54 (2001)). The ability of these neurones to sense changes in glucose levels is defective in a variety of genetic and experimentally induced models of obesity (Spanswick, D. et al, *Nature Neuroscience* **3**, 757-8 (2000), Levin, B. E. et al, *Brain Research* **808**, 317-9 (1998)). Intracerebroventricular (icv) infusion of glucose analogues, which are competitive inhibitors of glucokinase, stimulate food intake in lean rats (Kurata, K. et al, *Metabolism: Clinical & Experimental* **38**, 46-51 (1989)). In contrast, icv infusion of glucose suppresses feeding (Kurata, K. et al, *Physiology & Behavior* **37**, 615-20 (1986)). Small molecule activators of GK may thus decrease food intake and weight gain through central effects on GK. Therefore, GK activators may be of therapeutic use in treating eating disorders, including obesity, in addition to diabetes. The hypothalamic effects will be additive or synergistic to the effects of the same compounds acting in the liver and/or pancreas in normalising glucose homeostasis, for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. Thus the GK/GK regulatory protein system can be described as a potential target of benefit in both diabetes and obesity.

[0093] The amplitude of glucose-induce insulin release is highly dependent on the action of the gastrointestinal hormones GLP-1 (glucagon-like peptide 1) and GIP. Unlike sulfonylureas, which stimulate insulin release at low as well as high glucose levels, the action of GLP-1 on β -cells is glucose dependent (Gromada, J. et al., *Pflügers Arch* **435**, 583-594 (1998)). GLP-1 receptor agonist and drugs that slow the degradation of active GLP-1 are therefore under development as a novel treatments for type 2 diabetes. An alternative strategy would be to enhance endogenous GLP-1 levels. Of potential interest is the possibility that the release of GLP-1 and GIP might be regulated by glucokinase-expressing endocrine cells (Jetton, T.L. et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* **269**, 3641-3654 (1994)) and glucose-responsive neurons (Liu, M. et al., *J. Neurosci.* **19**, 10305-10317 (1999)). It has been reported that the release of GIP by intestinal K-cells is directly controlled by glucose (Kieffer, T.J. et al., *Am J Physiol* **267**, E489-E496 (1994)), and GLP-1 secretion from GLUTag cells is triggered by glucose through a mechanism similar to that found in β -cells for insulin secretion (Reimann,

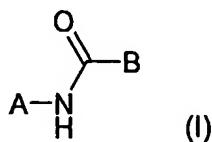
F. et al, Diabetes 51, 2757-2763 (2002)). Small molecule activators of glucokinase may thus be used to increase GLP-1 and /or GIP secretion and thus for treatment, modulation, inhibition, decreasement, reduction, arrest or prevention of beta cell degeneration, such as necrosis or apoptosis of β -cells.

[0094] The invention is further exemplified by the following embodiments:

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Embodiment 1. A compound represented by the general formula (I),

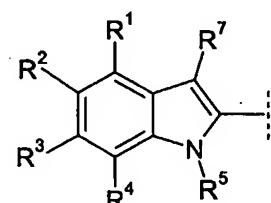
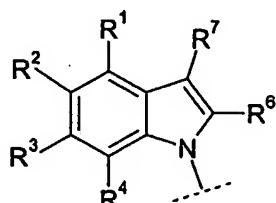
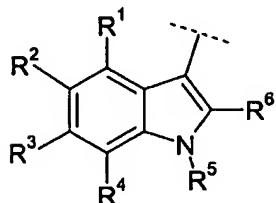
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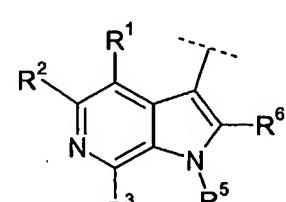
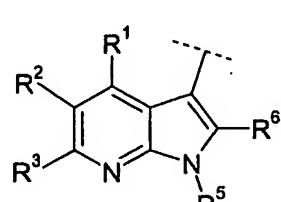
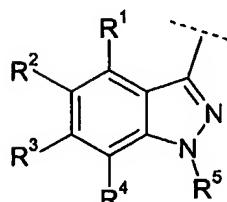
wherein B is

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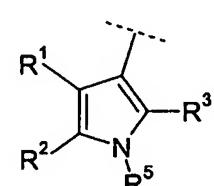
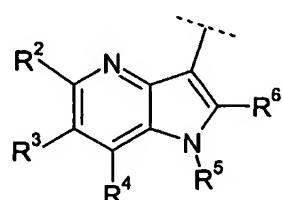
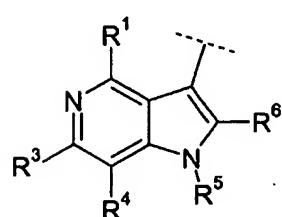
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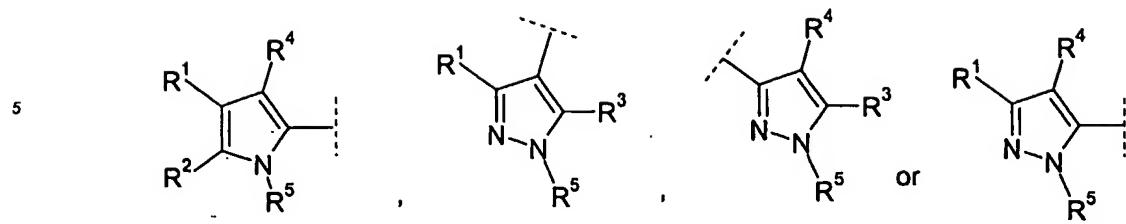
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R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, and R⁷ are independently selected from the group consisting of

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- hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃; or
- NR¹⁰R¹¹; or
- C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkylthio, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkylthio, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfinyl, arylsulfonyl, heteroarylsulfonyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonyl, -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyloxy, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylamino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, di-(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfamoyl, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)sulfamoyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfinamoyl or di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)sulfinamoyl each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R¹²; or
- CO-NR¹³R¹⁴;

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R¹⁰ and R¹¹ independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl-C(O)OH, -S(O)₂CH₃, or aryl;

R¹² is halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂;

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R¹³ and R¹⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R¹⁵; or R¹³ and R¹⁴ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocycle such as piperazine, homopiperazine or morpholine;

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R¹⁵ is halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂;

R⁵ is selected from.

35

- C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylcarbamoyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, di-(C₁₋₆-alkyl)carbamoyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R³²; or
- 40
- aryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl-C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, or aryl-S-C₁₋₆-alkyl, wherein the aryl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁰; or
- heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, wherein the heteroaryl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁶; or
- C₁₋₆-alkyl-C(O)-NR²⁸R²⁹ or -C₁₋₆-alkyl-NR²⁸R²⁹; wherein the alkyl part may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R³³; or
- 45
- C(O)NR³⁰R³¹;

R³² and R³³ are independently halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂

R²⁰ is

50

- hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, CF₃, hydroxy, carboxy; or
- C(O)-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfamoyl, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)sulfamoyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfinamoyl, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)sulfinamoyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylamino C₁₋₆-alkyl, di-(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl or hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²¹; or
- 55
- NR²²R²³ or -C₁₋₆-alkyl-NR²²R²³ optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R³⁴; or
- CONR²⁴R²⁵;

R²¹ is halogen, nitro, cyano, CF₃, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, -S(O)₂NH₂ or carboxy;
 R²² and R²³ are independently selected from hydrogen, -C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkyl;
 R²⁴ and R²⁵ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, or R²⁴ and R²⁵ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocycle such as piperazine, homopiperazine or morpholine;
 R²⁶ is

- hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy; or
- -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl, sulfonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfamoyl, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)sulfamoyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfamoyl, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)sulfamoyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylamino C₁₋₆-alkyl, di-(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl or hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁷;

R²⁷ is halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, or carboxy;
 R²⁸ and R²⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen, -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkyl;
 R³⁰ and R³¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, or R³⁰ and R³¹ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocycle such as piperazine, homopiperazine or morpholine;

R³⁴ is halogen, nitro, cyano, CF₃, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, -S(O)₂NH₂ or carboxy;
 A is heteroaryl which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected independently from R⁴⁰, R⁴¹ and R⁴²
 R⁴⁰, R⁴¹ and R⁴² are independently selected from

- halogen, carboxy, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, -CF₃, -SCN; or
- C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, C₁₋₆-alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfinyl, -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -NH₂-C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-S-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylamino-C₁₋₆-alkyl or hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁴³; or
- aryl, heteroaryl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkylthio, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkylthio, heteroaryl-thio-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, arylthio, heteroarylthio, arylsulfonyl, heteroarylsulfonyl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkylamino, each of which is optionally substituted on the aryl or heteroaryl part with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁴⁴; or
- C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted on the cycloalkyl part with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁴⁵; or
- -NR⁴⁶R⁴⁷, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-NR⁴⁸R⁴⁷, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-S-R⁴⁸ -C₁₋₆-alkyl-S(O)-R⁴⁸, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-S(O)₂-R⁴⁸ wherein each alkyl part may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁵²; or
- -CONR⁴⁹R⁵⁰, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-CNR⁴⁹R⁵⁰ optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁵³; or

two of R⁴⁰, R⁴¹ and R⁴² can be taken together to form a C₂₋₅-alkylene bridge;
 R⁴³, R⁴⁴, and R⁴⁵ are independently C₁₋₆-alkyl, halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂;

R⁴⁶ and R⁴⁷ independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or R⁴⁴ and R⁴⁵ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocycle such as piperazine, homopiperazine or morpholine;

R⁴⁸ is selected from

- C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylamino-C₁₋₆-alkyl or hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl; or
- aryl, heteroaryl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, or heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, wherein the aryl or heteroaryl part is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁵¹; or
- C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl.

R⁴⁹ and R⁵⁰ are independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆-alkyl.
 R⁵¹ is halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, or carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl.
 R⁵² and R⁵³ are independently C₁₋₆-alkyl, halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂

(O)₂NH₂

as well as any salt hereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or any optical isomer or mixture of optical isomers, including a racemic mixture, or any tautomeric forms, with the exception of the compounds

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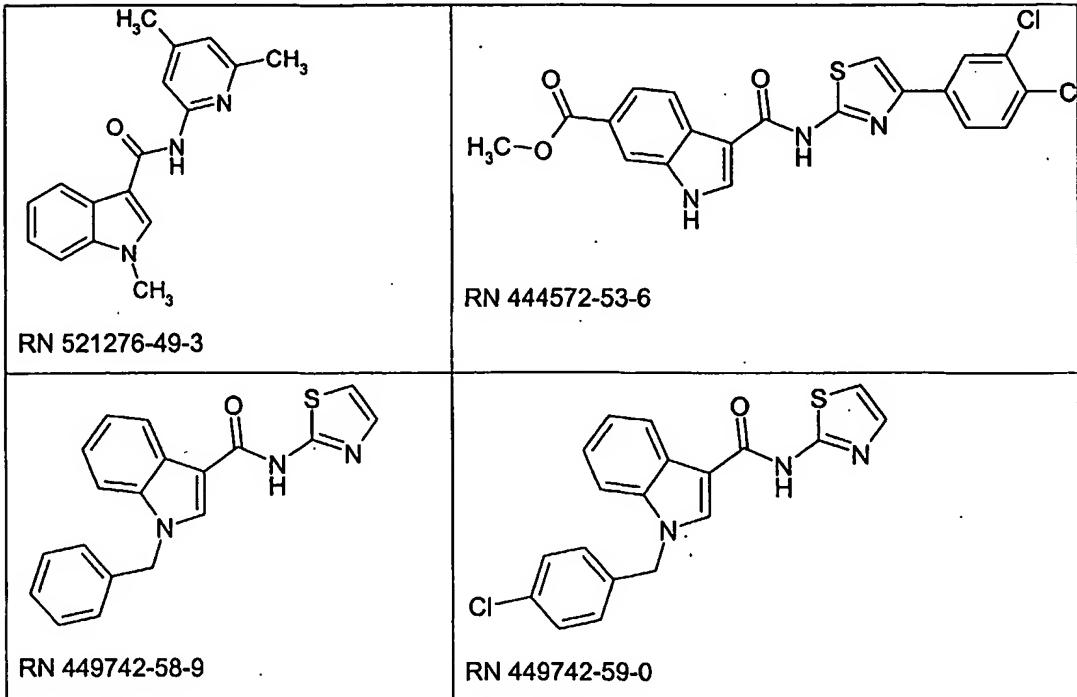
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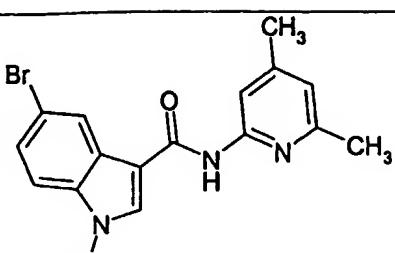
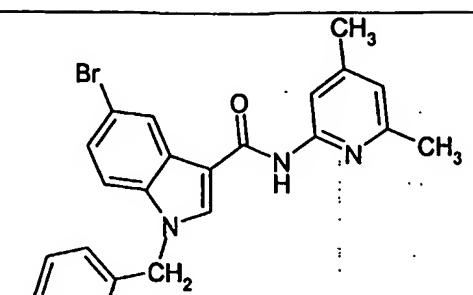
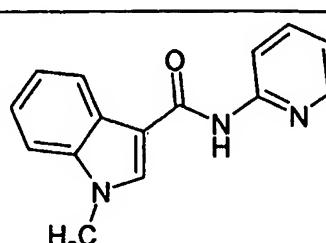
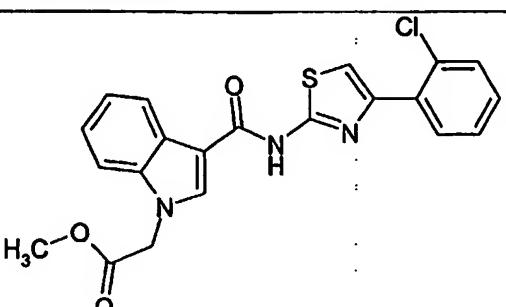
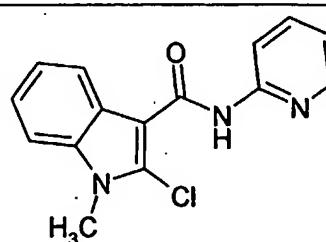
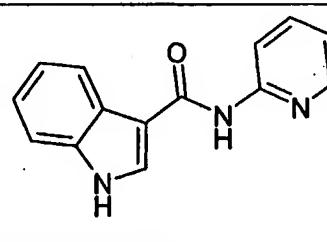
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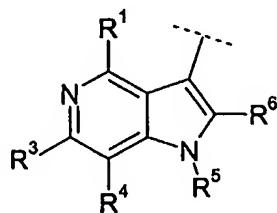
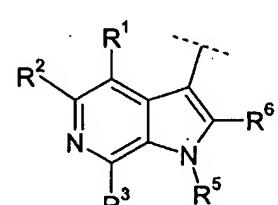
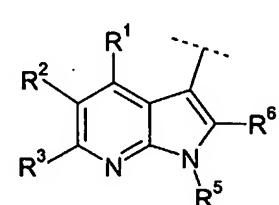
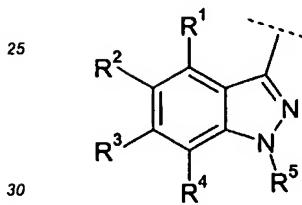
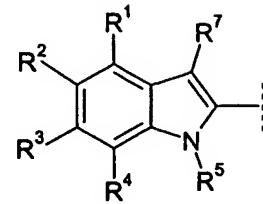
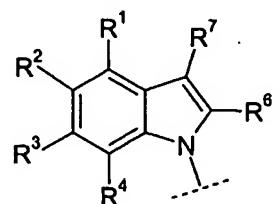
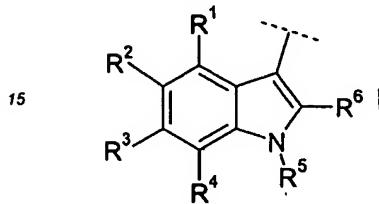
 <p>5</p> <p>N 400071-99-0.</p>	 <p>10</p> <p>R</p> <p>15</p> <p>RN 400072-03-9</p>
 <p>20</p> <p>RN 340258-77-7.</p>	 <p>25</p> <p>RN 190841-75-9.</p>
 <p>30</p> <p>RN 156136-94-6.</p>	 <p>35</p> <p>RN 63479-69-6.</p>

- C_{2-6} alkoxyalkyl,
- tetrahydropyranyl,

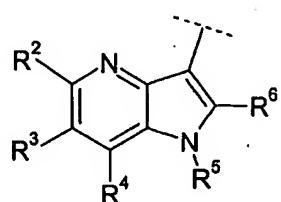
5 then A cannot be substituted in the 3-position with

- phenyl, pyridine, or pyrimidine, each of which may optionally be substituted with up to four substituents selected from Cl, Br, C_{1-3} -alkyl, or C_{1-3} -alkoxy and CF_3 ,
- naphtyl optionally substituted with halogen, C_{1-3} -alkyl, or C_{1-3} -alkoxy.

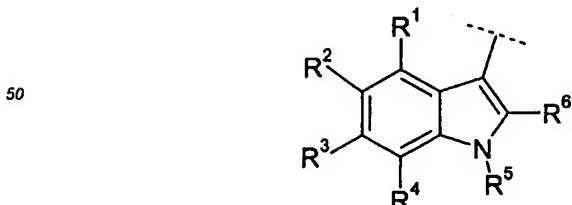
10 Embodiment 2. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 1 wherein B is



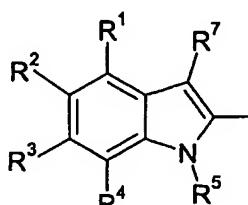
or



45 Embodiment 3. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 2 wherein B is

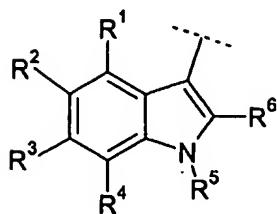


or

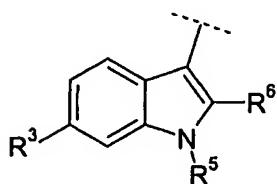


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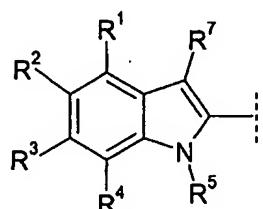
Embodiment 4. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 3 wherein B is



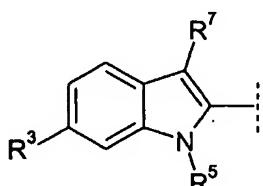
10 Embodiment 5. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 4 wherein B is



20 Embodiment 6. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 3 wherein B is



Embodiment 7. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 6 wherein B is



45 Embodiment 8. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 7 wherein at least one of the substituents R1, R2, R3 and R4 is different from H.

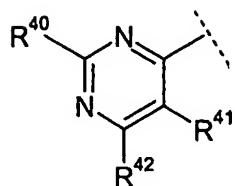
Embodiment 9. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 8 wherein R3 is different from H.

Embodiment 10. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 9 wherein A is thiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, tetrazolyl, 3-oxo-pyrazolyl, 3-oxo-imidazolyl, 3-oxo-thiazolyl, thiazolidinyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, 1,3,5-triazinyl, 1,2,4-triazinyl, benzimidazolyl, 4-oxo-pyrimidyl, pyridazinyl or 2-oxo-pyrimidyl, each of which may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R40, R41 and R42.

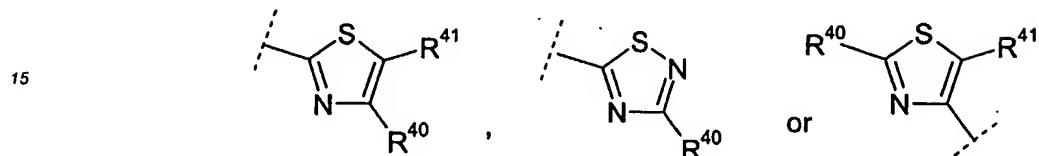
50 Embodiment 11. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 10 wherein A is thiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl, pyridyl, or pyrimidinyl, each of which may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R40, R41 and R42.

55 Embodiment 12. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 11 wherein A is thiazolyl or 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl, each of which may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R40, R41 and R42.

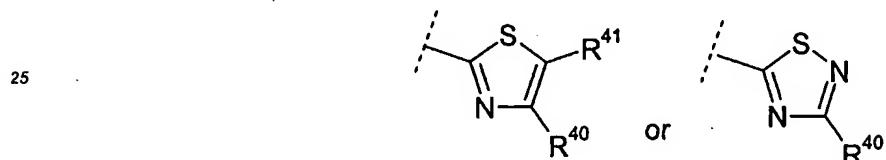
Embodiment 13. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 11 wherein A is



10 Embodiment 14. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 12 wherein A is



20 Embodiment 15. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 14 wherein A is



30 Embodiment 16. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 15 wherein A is



40 Embodiment 17. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 15 wherein A is



50 Embodiment 18. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 17 wherein R⁶ and R⁷ are hydrogen.

Embodiment 19. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 18 wherein R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of

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- hydrogen, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃; or
- -NR¹⁰R¹¹; or
- C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-

5 sulfinyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C_{1-6} -alkyl-carbonyl, carboxy- C_{1-6} -alkyl, hydroxy- C_{1-6} -alkyl, di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino- C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkylamino- C_{1-6} -alkyl, or carboxy- C_{1-6} -alkyloxy, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R¹²; or

- -CO-NR¹³R¹⁴.

10 Embodiment 20. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 19 wherein R', R², R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of

- hydrogen, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃; or
- -NR¹⁰R¹¹; or
- C_{1-6} -alkyl, benzyl, C_{1-6} -alkoxy, benzyloxy, phenyl, C_{1-6} -alkyl-carbonyl, carboxy- C_{1-6} -alkyl, hydroxy- C_{1-6} -alkyl, di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino- C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkylamino- C_{1-6} -alkyl or carboxy- C_{1-6} -alkyloxy, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R¹²; or
- -CO-NR¹³R¹⁴.

15 Embodiment 21. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 20 wherein R', R², R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of

- hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃; or
- -NR¹⁰R¹¹; or
- C_{1-6} -alkyl, carboxy- C_{1-6} -alkyl, hydroxy- C_{1-6} -alkyl, di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)amino- C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkylamino- C_{1-6} -alkyl or carboxy- C_{1-6} -alkyloxy, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R¹²; or
- -CO-NR¹³R¹⁴.

20 Embodiment 22. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 21 wherein R', R², R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of

- hydrogen, F, Cl, Br, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃; or
- -NR¹⁰R¹¹; or
- methyl, ethyl, propyl, -CH₂-C(O)OH, -(CH₂)₂-C(O)OH, -CH₂-OH, -(CH₂)₂-OH, -O-CH₂-C(O)OH, -(CH₂)₂-N(CH₃)₂, -O-(CH₂)₂-C(O)OH; or
- -CO-NR¹³R¹⁴.

25 Embodiment 23. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 22 wherein R¹⁰ and R¹¹ independently represent hydrogen, methyl, -C(O)-CH₃, -C(O)-CH₂CH₃, -CH₂-C(O)OH, -(CH₂)₂-C(O)OH, -C(O)-CH₂-C(O)OH, or-S(O)₂CH₃. Embodiment 24. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 23 wherein R¹⁰ is H and R¹¹ is hydrogen, methyl, -C(O)-CH₃, -C(O)-CH₂CH₃, -CH₂-C(O)OH, -(CH₂)₂-C(O)OH, -C(O)-CH₂-C(O)OH, or-S(O)₂CH₃.

30 Embodiment 25. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 24 wherein R¹² is halogen.

Embodiment 26. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 25 wherein R¹³ and R¹⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, or propyl.

35 Embodiment 27. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 26 wherein both R¹³ and R¹⁴ are hydrogen, or both are methyl, or both are ethyl, or both are propyl.

Embodiment 28. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 25 wherein R¹³ and R¹⁴ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a morpholine ring.

40 Embodiment 29. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 28 wherein R¹⁵ is halogen.

45 Embodiment 30. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 29 wherein R⁵ is selected from

- C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{2-6} -alkenyl, C_{2-6} -alkynyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkenyl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, cyanomethyl, carboxymethyl, C_{1-6} -alkylcarbamoyl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, di(C_{1-6} -alkyl)carbamoyl- C_{1-6} -alkyl; each of which may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R³²; or
- phenyl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, wherein the phenyl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁰; or
- Heteroaryl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, wherein the heteroaryl part is selected from furyl, thiienyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, 3-oxopyra-

zolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, pyranyl, pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, 1,2,3-triazinyl, 1,2,4-triazinyl, 1,3,5-triazinyl, 1,2,3-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,5-oxadiazolyl, 1,3,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,3-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, tetrazolyl, thiadiazinyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzofuryl, benzothienyl, indazolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzisothiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzisoxazolyl, purinyl, quinazolinyl, quinolizinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, quinoxalinyl, naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl, carbazolyl, azepinyl, diazepinyl, acridinyl, thiazolidinyl, 2-thioxothiazolidinyl, and the heteroaryl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁶, or

- $-\text{C}_1\text{-}_6\text{-alkyl-NR}^{28}\text{R}^{29}$; or
- $-\text{CONR}^{30}\text{R}^{31}$.

Embodiment 31. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 30 wherein R^6 is selected from

- C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{2-6} -alkenyl, C_{2-6} -alkynyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkenyl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, cyanomethyl, carboxymethyl, C_{1-6} -alkylcarbamoylmethyl, di-(C_{1-6} -alkyl)carbamoylmethyl; each of which may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{32} ; or
- Phenyl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, wherein the phenyl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{20} ; or
- Heteroaryl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, wherein the heteroaryl part is selected from furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, pyranyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, 1,2,3-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzofuryl, benzothienyl, benzimidazolyl, benzoxazolyl, purinyl, quinoliny, isoquinoliny, or thiazolidinyl, and the heteroaryl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{26} ; or
- $-C_{1-6}$ -alkyl-NR²⁸R²⁹; or
- $-CONR^{30}R^{31}$.

Embodiment 32. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 31 wherein R^5 is selected from

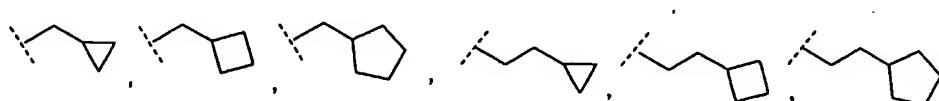
- C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{2-6} -alkenyl, C_{2-6} -alkynyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkenyl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, each of which may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{32} ; or
- Phenyl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, wherein the phenyl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{20} ; or
- $-C_{1-6}$ -alkyl- $NR^{28}R^{29}$; or
- $-CONR^{30}R^{31}$.

Embodiment 33. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 32 wherein R^5 is selected from

- C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{2-6} -alkenyl, C_{2-6} -alkynyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkenyl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, each of which may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{32} ; or
- Phenyl- C_{1-6} -alkyl, wherein the phenyl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{20} .

Embodiment 34. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 33 wherein R⁶ is selected from

45 • methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, *tert*-butyl, n-pentyl, isopentyl, neopentyl, *tert*-pentyl, wherein each alkyl is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R³², vinyl, 1-propenyl, 2-propenyl, iso-propenyl, 1,3-butadienyl, 1-butenyl, 2-butenyl, 3-butenyl, 2-methyl-1-propenyl, 1-pentenyl, 2-pentenyl, 3-pentenyl, 4-pentenyl, 3-methyl-2-but enyl, ethynyl, 1-propynyl, 2-propynyl, 1-buty nyl, 2-buty nyl, 3-buty nyl, 1-pentynyl, 2-pentynyl, 3-pentynyl, 4-pentynyl,



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; or

- Phenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, wherein the phenyl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁰.

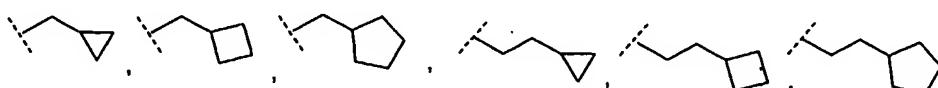
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Embodiment 35. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 34 wherein R⁵ is selected from

- methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, *tert*-butyl, wherein each alkyl is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R³², vinyl, 1-propenyl, 2-propenyl, iso-propenyl, 1,3-butadienyl, 1-butenyl, 2-butenyl, 3-butenyl, 2-methyl-1-propenyl, 3-methyl-2-butenyl,

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; or

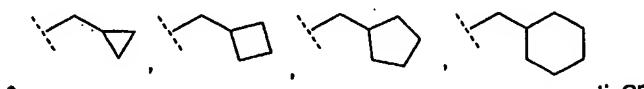
- Phenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, wherein the phenyl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁰.

Embodiment 36. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 35 wherein R⁵ is selected from

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- methyl, ethyl, propyl, wherein each alkyl is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R³², 1-propenyl, 2-propenyl, iso-propenyl, 2-methyl-1-propenyl, 3-methyl-2-buteneyl,

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; or

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- Benzyl, wherein the phenyl part may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁰.

Embodiment 37. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 36 wherein R²⁰ is

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- halogen, cyano, CF₃, hydroxy, carboxy; or
- -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²¹; or
- —NR²²R²³, —C₁₋₆-alkyl-NR²²R²³; or
- —CONR²⁴R²⁵.

Embodiment 38. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 37 wherein R²⁰ is

- halogen, cyano, CF_3 , hydroxy, carboxy; or
- $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkoxy}$, $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, carboxy- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, amino- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, hydroxy- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$; or
- $-\text{NR}^{22}\text{R}^{23}$ or
- $-\text{CONR}^{24}\text{R}^{25}$.

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Embodiment 39. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 38 wherein R^{20} is

- halogen, cyano, CF_3 , hydroxy, carboxy; or
- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkoxy}$, $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, carboxy- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, amino- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, hydroxy- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$.

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Embodiment 40. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 39 wherein R^{20} is halogen, cyano, CF_3 , hydroxy, carboxy, $-\text{O}-\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{O}-(\text{CH}_3)_2$, methyl, ethyl, or propyl.

Embodiment 41. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 40 wherein R^{21} is halogen.

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Embodiment 42. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 41 wherein R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from hydrogen, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{CH}_2$, methyl, ethyl or propyl.

Embodiment 43. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 42 wherein R^{24} and R^{25} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or propyl.

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Embodiment 44. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 43 wherein R^{26} is

- halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy; or
- $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkoxy}$, $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{27} .

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Embodiment 45. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 44 wherein R^{26} is halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, methoxy, ethoxy, methyl, ethyl or propyl.

Embodiment 46. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 45 wherein R^{27} is halogen.

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Embodiment 47. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 46 wherein R^{28} and R^{29} are independently selected from hydrogen or methyl.

Embodiment 48. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 47 wherein R^{30} and R^{31} are independently selected from hydrogen or methyl.

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Embodiment 49. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 48 wherein R^{32} is halogen or cyano.

Embodiment 50. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 49 wherein R^{32} is halogen.

Embodiment 51. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 50 wherein R^{40} , R^{41} and R^{42} are independently selected from

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- halogen, carboxy, cyano, hydroxy, $-\text{CF}_3$, $-\text{SCN}$; or
- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkoxy}$, $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkylthio}$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, $-\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl-O-C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, $-\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl-S-C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, carboxy- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, di($\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$)amino- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkylamino-C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, or hydroxy- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{43} ; or
- phenyl- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, naphtyl- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, heteroaryl- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, phenyl- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkylthio}$, naphtyl- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkylthio}$, heteroaryl- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkylthio}$, heteroaryl-thio- $\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, phenoxy, heteroaryloxy, or heteroarylthio, wherein each heteroaryl part is selected from furyl, thiienyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, pyranyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, 1,2,3-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzofuryl, benzothienyl, benzimidazolyl, benzoxazolyl, purinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, or thiazolidinyl, and wherein each aryl or heteroaryl part is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{44} ; or
- $\text{C}_{3-8}\text{-cycloalkyl}$, $\text{C}_{3-8}\text{-cycloalkyl-C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl}$, each of which is optionally substituted on the cycloalkyl part with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{45} ; or
- $-\text{NR}^{46}\text{R}^{47}$, $-\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl-NR}^{46}\text{R}^{47}$, $-\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl-S(O)-R}^{48}$, $-\text{C}_{1-6}\text{-alkyl-S(O)}_2\text{R}^{48}$ wherein each alkyl part may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{42} ;

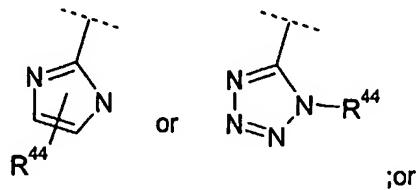
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two of R^{40} , R^{41} and R^{42} can be taken together to form a C_{2-5} -alkylene bridge;

Embodiment 52. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 51 wherein R^{40} , R^{41} and R^{42} are independently selected from

- halogen, cyano, $-\text{CF}_3$, $-\text{SCN}$; or
- methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, methoxy, ethoxy, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{S}-\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S}-\text{CH}_2$; or
- phenyl-methyl, phenyl-ethyl, naphthyl-methyl, naphthyl-ethyl, heteroaryl-methyl, heteroaryl-ethyl, phenyl-methylthio, phenyl-ethylthio, heteroaryl-methylthio, heteroaryl-ethylthio, heteroaryl-thio-methyl, heteroaryl-thio-ethyl, each of which is optionally substituted on the aryl or heteroaryl part with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{44} and wherein heteroaryl is selected from

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- Cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopropyl-methyl, cyclobutylmethyl, cyclopentyl-methyl, cyclohexyl-methyl, cyclopropyl-ethyl, cyclobutyl-ethyl, cyclopentyl-ethyl, cyclohexyl-ethyl, each of which is optionally substituted on the cycloalkyl part with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{45} ; or

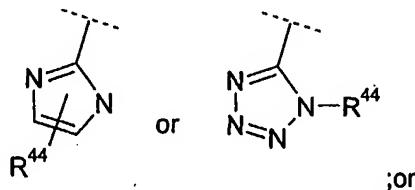
two of R^{40} , R^{41} and R^{42} can be taken together to form a C_{2-5} -alkylene bridge.

Embodiment 53. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 52 wherein R^{40} , R^{41} and R^{42} are independently selected from

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- halogen, cyano, $-\text{CF}_3$, $-\text{SCN}$; or
- methyl, ethyl, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{S}-\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S}-\text{CH}_2$; or
- heteroaryl-methyl, heteroaryl-ethyl, phenyl-methylthio, phenyl-ethylthio, heteroaryl-thio-methyl, heteroaryl-thio-ethyl, each of which is optionally substituted on the aryl or heteroaryl part with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{44} and wherein heteroaryl is selected from

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- Cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopropyl-methyl, cyclobutylmethyl, cyclopentyl-methyl, cyclohexyl-methyl, cyclopropyl-ethyl, cyclobutyl-ethyl, cyclopentyl-ethyl, cyclohexyl-ethyl, each of which is optionally substituted on the cycloalkyl part with one or more substituents independently selected from R^{45} ; or

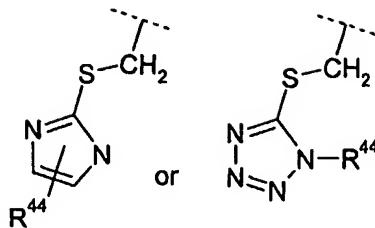
two of R^{40} , R^{41} and R^{42} can be taken together to form a C_{2-5} -alkylene bridge.

Embodiment 54. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 53 wherein R^{40} , R^{41} and R^{42} are independently selected from

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- halogen, cyano, $-\text{CF}_3$, $-\text{SCN}$; or
- methyl, ethyl, $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{S}-\text{CH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S}-\text{CH}_2$; or

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Embodiment 55. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 54 wherein R⁴³ is C₁₋₆-alkyl, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, or -CF₃.

Embodiment 56. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 55 wherein R⁴³ is methyl, ethyl or halogen.

Embodiment 57. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 56 wherein R⁴⁴ is C₁₋₆-alkyl, halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, or carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl.

Embodiment 58. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 57 wherein R⁴⁴ is methyl, ethyl, halogen, -CH₂-COOH, or -CH₂-CH₂-COOH.

Embodiment 59. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 58 wherein R⁴⁵ is C₁₋₆-alkyl, halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, or carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl.

Embodiment 60. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 59 wherein R⁴⁵ is methyl, ethyl, halogen, -CH₂-COOH, or -CH₂-CH₂-COOH.

Embodiment 61. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 60 wherein R⁴⁶ and R⁴⁷ independently represent hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy-methyl, hydroxy-methyl, carboxy-methyl, carboxy-ethyl, or phenyl, or R⁴⁴ and R⁴⁵ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocycle selected from piperazine, homopiperazine or morpholine.

Embodiment 62. A compound according embodiment Embodiment 61 wherein R⁴⁶ and R⁴⁷ independently represent hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, or phenyl, or R⁴⁴ and R⁴⁵ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocycle selected from piperazine, homopiperazine or morpholine.

Embodiment 63. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 62 wherein R⁴⁸ is selected from

- carboxy-methyl, carboxy-ethyl, hydroxy-methyl or hydroxy-ethyl; or
- phenyl, naphtyl, heteroaryl, phenylmethyl, phenylethyl, heteroaryl-methyl or heteroaryl-methyl, wherein each heteroaryl part is selected from furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, pyranyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, 1,2,3-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzofuryl, benzothienyl, benzimidazolyl, benzoxazolyl, purinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, tetrazolyl, or thiazolidinyl, and wherein the aryl or heteroaryl part is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁵¹; or
- C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-methyl or C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-ethyl.

40 Embodiment 64. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 63 wherein R⁴⁸ is selected from

- carboxy-methyl, carboxy-ethyl, hydroxy-methyl or hydroxy-ethyl; or
- phenyl, heteroaryl, phenylmethyl, phenylethyl, heteroaryl-methyl or heteroaryl-methyl, wherein each heteroaryl part is selected from imidazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, or tetrazolyl, and wherein the aryl or heteroaryl part is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁵¹; or
- Cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopropyl-methyl, cyclobutylmethyl, cyclopentyl-methyl, cyclohexyl-methyl, cyclopropyl-ethyl, cyclobutyl-ethyl, cyclopentyl-ethyl, or cyclohexyl-ethyl.

50 Embodiment 65. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 64 wherein R⁴⁸ is selected from

- carboxy-methyl, carboxy-ethyl, hydroxy-methyl or hydroxy-ethyl; or
- phenyl, heteroaryl, phenylmethyl, phenylethyl, heteroaryl-methyl or heteroaryl-methyl, wherein each heteroaryl part is selected from imidazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, or tetrazolyl, and wherein the aryl or heteroaryl part is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁵¹; or
- Cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, or cyclopentyl.

Embodiment 66. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 65 wherein

R⁴⁹ and R⁵⁰ are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and ethyl.

Embodiment 67. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 66 wherein R⁴⁹ and R⁵⁰ are both hydrogen.

Embodiment 68. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 67 wherein R⁵¹ is halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy-methyl, hydroxy-ethyl, carboxy-methyl or carboxy-ethyl.

Embodiment 69. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 68 wherein R⁵¹ is methyl, ethyl, hydroxy-methyl, hydroxy-ethyl, carboxy-methyl or carboxy-ethyl.

Embodiment 70. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 69 wherein R⁵² is halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy-methyl, hydroxy-ethyl, carboxy-methyl or carboxy-ethyl.

Embodiment 71. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 70 wherein R⁵³ is halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, methyl, ethyl, hydroxy-methyl, hydroxy-ethyl, carboxy-methyl or carboxy-ethyl.

Embodiment 72. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 71, which compound is an activator of glucokinase, when tested in the Glucokinase Activation Assay (I) disclosed herein at a glucose concentration of 2 mM.

Embodiment 73. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 72, which compound is an activator of glucokinase, when tested in the Glucokinase Activation Assay (I) disclosed herein at a glucose concentration of from 10 to 15 mM.

Embodiment 74. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 73, which compound, at a concentration of 30 μ M, is capable of providing an at least 1.5, such as at least 1.7, for instance at least 2.0 fold activation of glucokinase in the Glucokinase Activation Assay (I) disclosed herein at a glucose concentration of 2 mM.

Embodiment 75. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 74, which compound, at a concentration of 30 μ M, is capable of providing an at least 1.5, such as at least 1.7, for instance at least 2.0 fold activation of glucokinase in the Glucokinase Activation Assay (I) disclosed herein at a glucose concentration of from 10 to 15 mM.

Embodiment 76. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 75, which at a concentration of 5 μ M is capable of providing an at least 1.5, such as at least 1.7, for instance at least 2.0 fold activation of glucokinase in the Glucokinase Activation Assay (I) disclosed herein at a glucose concentration of 2 mM.

Embodiment 77. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 76, which at a concentration of 5 μ M is capable of providing an at least 1.5, such as at least 1.7, for instance at least 2.0 fold activation of glucokinase in the Glucokinase Activation Assay (I) disclosed herein at a glucose concentration of from 10 to 15 mM.

Embodiment 78. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 77, which compound provides an increase in glucokinase activity, where the increase in glucokinase activity provided by the compound increases with increasing concentrations of glucose.

Embodiment 79. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 77 or embodiment Embodiment 78, which provides an increase in glucokinase activity in Glucokinase Activation Assay (I) disclosed herein at a glucose concentration of 15 mM, which increase is significantly higher than the increase in glucokinase activity provided by the compound in Glucokinase Activation Assay (I) disclosed herein at a glucose concentration of 5 mM.

Embodiment 80. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 77 to Embodiment 79, which at a compound concentration of 10 μ M provides an increase in glucokinase activity in Glucokinase Activation Assay (I) disclosed herein at a glucose concentration of 15 mM, which increase is significantly higher than the increase in glucokinase activity provided by the compound at a compound concentration of 10 μ M in Glucokinase Activation Assay (I) disclosed herein at a glucose concentration of 5 mM.

Embodiment 81. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 77 to Embodiment 80, which at a compound concentration of 10 μ M provides an increase in glucokinase activity in Glucokinase Activation Assay (I) disclosed herein at a glucose concentration of 15 mM, which increase is at least 1.1 fold higher, such as at least 1.2 fold higher, for instance at least 1.3 fold higher, such as at least 1.4 fold higher, for instance 1.5 fold higher, such as at least 1.6 fold higher, for instance at least 1.7 fold higher, such as at least 1.8 fold higher, for instance at least 1.9 fold higher, such as at least 2.0 fold higher than the increase in glucokinase activity provided by the compound at a compound concentration of 10 μ M in Glucokinase Activation Assay (I) disclosed herein at a glucose concentration of 5 mM.

Embodiment 82. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 81, which compound increases glucose utilization in the liver without inducing any increase in insulin secretion in response to glucose.

Embodiment 83. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 81, which compound shows a significantly higher activity in isolated hepatocytes compared to the activity of the compound in Ins-1 cells.

5 Embodiment 84. A compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 82 to Embodiment 83, which compound shows a significantly higher activity in isolated hepatocytes measured as described in the Glucokinase Activity Assay (II) compared to the activity of the compound in Ins-1 cells measured as described in the Glucokinase Activity Assay (III).

10 Embodiment 85. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 84, which compound shows an activity in isolated hepatocytes measured as described in the Glucokinase Activity Assay (II) which activity is at least 1.1 fold higher, such as at least 1.2 fold higher, for instance at least 1.3 fold higher, such as at least 1.4 fold higher, for instance 1.5 fold higher, such as at least 1.6 fold higher, for instance at least 1.7 fold higher, such as at least 1.8 fold higher, for instance at least 1.9 fold higher, such as at least 2.0 fold higher, for instance at least a 3.0 fold higher, such as at least a 4.0 fold higher, for instance at least 5.0 fold higher, such as at least 10 fold higher than the activity of the compound in Ins-1 cells measured as described in the Glucokinase Activity Assay (III).

15 Embodiment 86. A compound according to embodiment Embodiment 84, which compound shows no activity in the Ins-1 cells measured as described in the Glucokinase Activity Assay (III).

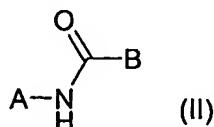
Embodiment 87. A compound according to any one of embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 86 for use as a medicament.

20 Embodiment 88. A compound according to any one of embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 86 for treatment of hyperglycemia, for treatment of IGT, for treatment of Syndrome X, for treatment of type 2 diabetes, for treatment of type 1 diabetes, for treatment of dyslipidemia, for treatment of hyperlipidemia, for treatment of hypertension, for treatment of obesity, for lowering of food intake, for appetite regulation, for regulating feeding behaviour, or for enhancing the secretion of enteroinscretins, such as GLP-1.

25 Embodiment 89. A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, at least one compound according to any one of embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 88 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

30 Embodiment 90. A pharmaceutical composition according to embodiment Embodiment 89 in unit dosage form, comprising from about 0.05 mg to about 1000 mg, preferably from about 0.1 mg to about 500 mg and especially preferred from about 0.5 mg to about 200 mg of the compound according to any one of embodiments 1 to Embodiment 88.

35 Embodiment 91. Use of a compound represented by the general formula (II)



40 wherein B is heteroaryl optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R', R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, and R⁷;

45 R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁶, and R⁷ are independently selected from the group consisting of

- hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, or
- -NR¹⁰R¹¹; or
- C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkylthio, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkylthio, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfinyl, arylsulfonyl, heteroarylsulfonyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonyl, -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyloxy, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylamino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, di-(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfamoyl, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)sulfamoyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfamoyl or di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)sulfamoyl each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R¹²; or
- -CO-NR¹³R¹⁴;

50 R¹⁰ and R¹¹ independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl-C(O)OH, -S(O)₂CH₃, or aryl;

R¹² is halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂;
 R¹³ and R¹⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R¹⁵; or R¹³ and R¹⁴ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocycle such as piperazine, homopiperazine or morpholine;

R¹⁵ is halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂;

R⁵ is selected from

- C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylcarbamoyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, di-(C₁₋₆-alkyl)carbamoyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R³²; or
- aryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl-C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, or aryl-S-C₁₋₆-alkyl, wherein the aryl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁰; or
- heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, wherein the heteroaryl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁶; or
- -C₁₋₆-alkyl-C(O)-NR²⁸R²⁹ or -C₁₋₆-alkyl-NR²⁸R²⁹, wherein the alkyl part may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R³³; or
- -C(O)NR³⁰R³¹;

R³² and R³³ are independently halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂
 R²⁰ is

- hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, CF₃, hydroxy, carboxy; or
- -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfamoyl, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)sulfamoyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfinamoyl, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)sulfinamoyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylamino C₁₋₆-alkyl, di-(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl or hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²¹; or
- —NR²²R²³ or -C₁₋₆-alkyl-NR²²R²³ optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R³⁴; or
- —CONR²⁴R²⁵;

R²¹ is halogen, nitro, cyano, CF₃, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, -S(O)₂NH₂ or carboxy;

R²² and R²³ are independently selected from hydrogen, -C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkyl;

R²⁴ and R²⁵ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, or R²⁴ and R²⁵ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocycle such as piperazine, homopiperazine or morpholine;

R²⁶ is

- hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy; or
- -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl, sulfonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfamoyl, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)sulfamoyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfinamoyl, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)sulfinamoyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylamino C₁₋₆-alkyl, di-(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl or hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁷;

R²⁷ is halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, or carboxy;

R²⁸ and R²⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen, -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl or C₁₋₆-alkyl;

R³⁰ and R³¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, or R³⁰ and R³¹ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocycle such as piperazine, homopiperazine or morpholine;

R³⁴ is halogen, nitro, cyano, CF₃, hydroxy, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, -S(O)₂NH₂ or carboxy;

A is heteroaryl which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected independently from R⁴⁰,

R⁴¹ and R⁴²

R⁴⁰, R⁴¹ and R⁴² are independently selected from

- halogen, carboxy, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, -CF₃, -SCN; or
- C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, C₁₋₆-alkylamino, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfinyl, -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -NH₂-C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-

S-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylamino-C₁₋₆-alkyl or hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁴³; or

- aryl, heteroaryl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkylthio, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkylthio, heteroaryl-thio-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, arylthio, heteroarylthio, arylsulfonyl, heteroarylsulfonyl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkylamino, each of which is optionally substituted on the aryl or heteroaryl part with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁴⁴; or
- C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted on the cycloalkyl part with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁴⁵; or
- -NR⁴⁶R⁴⁷, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-NR⁴⁶R⁴⁷, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-S-R⁴⁸ -C₁₋₆-alkyl-S(O)-R⁴⁸, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-S(O)₂-R⁴⁸ wherein each alkyl part may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁵²; or
- -CONR⁴⁹R⁵⁰, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-CONR⁴⁹R⁵⁰ optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁵³; or

15 two of R⁴⁰, R⁴¹ and R⁴² can be taken together to form a C₂₋₅-alkylene bridge; R⁴³, R⁴⁴, and R⁴⁵ are independently C₁₋₆-alkyl, halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂; R⁴⁶ and R⁴⁷ independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or R⁴⁴ and R⁴⁵ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocycle such as piperazine, homopiperazine or morpholine; R⁴⁸ is selected from

- C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylamino-C₁₋₆-alkyl or hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl; or
- aryl, heteroaryl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, or heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, wherein the aryl or heteroaryl part is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁵¹; or
- C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl.

20 R⁴⁹ and R⁵⁰ are independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆-alkyl.
R⁵¹ is halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, or carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl.
R⁵² and R⁵³ are independently C₁₋₆-alkyl, halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂

25 as well as any salt hereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or any optical isomer or mixture of optical isomers, including a racemic mixture, or any tautomeric forms, for the preparation of a medicament for increasing the activity of glucokinase.

30 Embodiment 92. The use according to embodiment Embodiment 91 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of metabolic disorders, for blood glucose lowering, for the treatment of hyperglycemia, for the treatment of IGT, for the treatment of Syndrome X, for the treatment of impaired fasting glucose (IFG), for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, for the treatment of type 1 diabetes, for delaying the progression of impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) to type 2 diabetes, for delaying the progression of non-insulin requiring type 2 diabetes to insulin requiring type 2 diabetes, for the treatment of dyslipidemia, for the treatment of hyperlipidemia, for the treatment of hypertension, for lowering of food intake, for appetite regulation, for the treatment of obesity, for regulating feeding behaviour, or for enhancing the secretion of enteroinscretins.

35 Embodiment 93. The use according to embodiment Embodiment 91 for the preparation of a medicament for the adjuvant treatment of type 1 diabetes for preventing the onset of diabetic complications.

40 Embodiment 94. The use according to embodiment Embodiment 91 for the preparation of a medicament for increasing the number and/or the size of beta cells in a mammalian subject, for treatment of beta cell degeneration, in particular apoptosis of beta cells, or for treatment of functional dyspepsia, in particular irritable bowel syndrome.

45 Embodiment 95. Use according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 91 to Embodiment 94 in a regimen which comprises treatment with a further antidiabetic agent.

50 Embodiment 96. Use according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 91 to Embodiment 95 in a regimen which comprises treatment with a further antihyperlipidemic agent.

55 Embodiment 97. Use according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 91 to Embodiment 96 in a regimen which comprises treatment with a further antiobesity agent.

Embodiment 98. Use according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 91 to Embodiment 97 in a regimen which comprises treatment with a further antihypertensive agent.

Embodiment 99. The use according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 91 to Embodiment 98 of a compound of Formula (II) wherein B is heteroaryl selected from thienyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl,

thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, indolyl, indazolyl, pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridyl, pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridyl, benzo[b]thienyl, benzo[b]furyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, cinnolinyl, phthalazinyl, quinazolinyl, quinoxalinyl, each of which may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, and R⁷.

5 Embodiment 100. The use according to embodiment Embodiment 99 of a compound of Formula (II) wherein B is heteroaryl selected from thienyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, indolyl, indazolyl, pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridyl, pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridyl, benzo[b]thienyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, each of which may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, and R⁷.

10 Embodiment 101. The use according to embodiment Embodiment 100 of a compound of Formula (II) wherein B is heteroaryl selected from thienyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, indolyl, indazolyl, pyrrolo[2,3-b]pyridyl, pyrrolo[2,3-c]pyridyl, benzo[b]thienyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, each of which may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, and R⁷.

15 Embodiment 102. The use according to embodiment Embodiment 101 of a compound according to any one of the embodiments Embodiment 1 to Embodiment 86.

Included within the scope of the present invention are the individual enantiomers of the compounds represented by formula (I) above as well as any wholly or partially racemic mixtures thereof. The present invention also covers the individual enantiomers of the compounds represented by formula (I) above as mixtures with diastereoisomers thereof 20 in which one or more stereocenters are inverted.

20 [0095] In one embodiment of the present invention, the present compounds are used for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of hyperglycemia. As used herein hyperglycemia is to be taken as generally understood in the art, with reference for example to the Report of the Expert Committee of the Diagnosis and Classification of Diabetes Mellitus, published in *Diabetes Care* **20**, 1183-1197, (1997), but is usually taken to mean an elevated plasma glucose 25 level exceeding about 110 mg/dl. The present compounds are effective in lowering the blood glucose both in the fasting and postprandial stage.

[0096] In one embodiment of the present invention, the present compounds are used for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of IGT.

[0097] In one embodiment of the present invention, the present compounds are used for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of Syndrome X.

[0098] In one embodiment of the present invention, the present compounds are used for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. Such treatment includes i. a. treatment for the purpose of delaying of the progression from IGT to type 2 diabetes as well as delaying the progression from non-insulin requiring type 2 diabetes to insulin requiring type 2 diabetes.

[0099] In one embodiment of the present invention the present compounds are used for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of type 1 diabetes. Such therapy is normally accompanied by insulin administration.

[0100] In one embodiment of the present invention the present compounds are used for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of dyslipidemia and hyperlipidemia.

[0101] In one embodiment of the present invention the present compounds are used for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of obesity.

[0102] In another aspect of the present invention treatment of a patient with the present compounds are combined with diet and/or exercise.

[0103] The present invention provides methods of activating glucokinase activity in a mammal, which methods comprise administering, to a mammal in need of activation of glucokinase activity, a therapeutically defined amount of a compound according to the present invention defined above, as a single or polymorphic crystalline form or forms, an amorphous form, a single enantiomer, a racemic mixture, a single stereoisomer, a mixture of stereoisomers, a single diastereoisomer, a mixture of diastereoisomers, a solvate, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a solvate, a prodrug, a biohydrolyzable ester, or a biohydrolyzable amide thereof.

[0104] The present invention provides a method of activating glucokinase, comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need thereof a pharmacologically effective amount of a compound according to the present invention. The invention further provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of a compound according to the present invention sufficient to activate glucokinase. A glucokinase - activating amount can be an amount that reduces or inhibits a Glucokinase activity in the subject.

[0105] Additionally provided by the present invention is a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of a compound according to the present invention sufficient to treat type I diabetes.

[0106] Also provided by the present invention is a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically ac-

ceptable carrier and a pharmacologically effective amount of a compound according to the present invention sufficient to treat type II diabetes.

[0107] The compounds of the present invention can be administered to any mammal in need of activation of glucokinase activity. Such mammals can include, for example, horses, cows, sheep, pigs, mice, dogs, cats, primates such as 5 chimpanzees, gorillas, rhesus monkeys, and, most preferably humans.

COMBINATION TREATMENT

[0108] In a further aspect of the present invention the present compounds are administered in combination with one 10 or more further active substances in any suitable ratios. Such further active agents may be selected from antidiabetic agents, antihyperlipidemic agents, antiobesity agents, antihypertensive agents and agents for the treatment of complications resulting from or associated with diabetes.

[0109] Suitable antidiabetic agents include insulin, GLP-1 (glucagon like peptide-1) derivatives such as those disclosed 15 in WO 98/08871 (Novo Nordisk A/S), which is incorporated herein by reference, as well as orally active hypoglycemic agents.

[0110] Suitable orally active hypoglycemic agents preferably include imidazolines, sulfonylureas, biguanides, meglitinides, oxadiazolidinediones, thiazolidinediones, insulin sensitizers, α -glucosidase inhibitors, agents acting on the 20 ATP-dependent potassium channel of the pancreatic β -cells eg potassium channel openers such as those disclosed in WO 97/26265, WO 99/03861 and WO 00/37474 (Novo Nordisk A/S) which are incorporated herein by reference, potassium channel openers, such as orlistat, potassium channel blockers such as nateglinide or BTS-67582, 25 glucagon antagonists such as those disclosed in WO 99/01423 and WO 00/39088 (Novo Nordisk A/S and Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), all of which are incorporated herein by reference, GLP-1 agonists such as those disclosed in WO 00/42026 (Novo Nordisk A/S and Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), which are incorporated herein by reference, DPP-IV (dipeptidyl peptidase-IV) inhibitors, PTPase (protein tyrosine phosphatase) inhibitors, inhibitors of hepatic enzymes involved in stimulation of gluconeogenesis and/or glycogenolysis, glucose uptake modulators, GSK-3 (glycogen synthase kinase-3) inhibitors, compounds modifying the lipid metabolism such as antihyperlipidemic agents and anti-30 lipidemic agents, compounds lowering food intake, and PPAR (peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor) and RXR (retinoid X receptor) agonists such as ALRT-268, LG-1268 or LG-1069.

[0111] In one embodiment of the present invention, the present compounds are administered in combination with a 35 sulphonylurea eg tolbutamide, chlorpropamide, tolazamide, glibenclamide, glipizide, glimepiride, glicazide or glyburide.

[0112] In one embodiment of the present invention, the present compounds are administered in combination with a biguanide eg metformin.

[0113] In one embodiment of the present invention, the present compounds are administered in combination with a meglitinide eg repaglinide or senaglinide/nateglinide.

[0114] In one embodiment of the present invention, the present compounds are administered in combination with a 40 thiazolidinedione insulin sensitizer eg troglitazone, ciglitazone, pioglitazone, rosiglitazone, isaglitazone, darglitazone, englitazone, CS-011/CI-1037 or T 174 or the compounds disclosed in WO 97/41097 (DRF-2344), WO 97/41119, WO 97/41120, WO 00/41121 and WO 98/45292 (Dr. Reddy's Research Foundation), which are incorporated herein by reference.

[0115] In one embodiment of the present invention the present compounds may be administered in combination with a 45 insulin sensitizer eg such as GI 262570, YM-440, MCC-555, JTT-501, AR-H039242, KRP-297, GW-409544, CRE-16336, AR-H049020, LY510929, MBX-102, CLX-0940, GW-501516 or the compounds disclosed in WO 99/19313 (NN622/DRF-2725), WO 00/50414, WO 00/63191, WO 00/63192, WO 00/63193 (Dr. Reddy's Research Foundation) and WO 00/23425, WO 00/23415, WO 00/23451, WO 00/23445, WO 00/23417, WO 00/23416, WO 00/63153, WO 00/63196, WO 00/63209, WO 00/63190 and WO 00/63189 (Novo Nordisk A/S), which are incorporated herein by reference.

[0116] In one embodiment of the present invention the present compounds are administered in combination with an α -glucosidase inhibitor eg voglibose, emiglitate, miglitol or acarbose.

[0117] In one embodiment of the present invention the present compounds are administered in combination with a 50 glycogen phosphorylase inhibitor eg the compounds described in WO 97/09040 (Novo Nordisk A/S).

[0118] In one embodiment of the present invention the present compounds are administered in combination with an agent acting on the ATP-dependent potassium channel of the pancreatic β -cells eg tolbutamide, glibenclamide, glipizide, glicazide, BTS-67582 or repaglinide.

[0119] In one embodiment of the present invention the present compounds are administered in combination with 55 nateglinide.

[0120] In one embodiment of the present invention the present compounds are administered in combination with an antihyperlipidemic agent or a antilipidemic agent eg cholestyramine, colestipol, clofibrate, gemfibrozil, lovastatin, pravastatin, simvastatin, probucol or dextrothyroxine.

[0121] Furthermore, the compounds according to the invention may be administered in combination with one or more antiobesity agents or appetite regulating agents.

[0122] Such agents may be selected from the group consisting of CART (cocaine amphetamine regulated transcript) agonists, NPY (neuropeptide Y) antagonists, MC3 (melanocortin 3) agonists, MC4 (melanocortin 4) agonists, orexin antagonists, TNF (tumor necrosis factor) agonists, CRF (corticotropin releasing factor) agonists, CRF BP (corticotropin releasing factor binding protein) antagonists, urocortin agonists, β 3 adrenergic agonists such as CL-316243, AJ-9677, GW-0604, LY362884, LY377267 or AZ-40140, MSH (melanocyte-stimulating hormone) agonists, MCH (melanocyte-concentrating hormone) antagonists, CCK (cholecystokinin) agonists, serotonin reuptake inhibitors (fluoxetine, seroxat or citalopram), serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors, 5HT (serotonin) agonists, bombesin agonists, galanin antagonists, growth hormone, growth factors such as prolactin or placental lactogen, growth hormone releasing compounds, TRH (thyrotropin releasing hormone) agonists, UCP 2 or 3 (uncoupling protein 2 or 3) modulators, leptin agonists, DA (dopamine) agonists (bromocriptin, doprexin), lipase/amylase inhibitors, PPAR modulators, RXR modulators, TR β agonists, adrenergic CNS stimulating agents, AGRP (agouti related protein) inhibitors, H3 histamine antagonists such as those disclosed in WO 00/42023, WO 00/63208 and WO 00/64884, which are incorporated herein by reference, exendin-4, GLP-1 agonists, ciliary neurotrophic factor, and oxyntomodulin. Further antiobesity agents are bupropion (antidepressant), topiramate (anticonvulsant), ecopipam (dopamine D1/D5 antagonist) and naltrexone (opioid antagonist).

[0123] In one embodiment of the present invention the antiobesity agent is leptin.

[0124] In one embodiment of the present invention the antiobesity agent is a serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor eg sibutramine.

[0125] In one embodiment of the present invention the antiobesity agent is a lipase inhibitor eg orlistat.

[0126] In one embodiment of the present invention the antiobesity agent is an adrenergic CNS stimulating agent eg dexamphetamine, amphetamine, phentermine, mazindol, phendimetrazine, diethylpropion, fenfluramine or dexfenfluramine.

[0127] Furthermore, the present compounds may be administered in combination with one or more antihypertensive agents. Examples of antihypertensive agents are β -blockers such as alprenolol, atenolol, timolol, pindolol, propranolol and metoprolol, ACE (angiotensin converting enzyme) inhibitors such as benazepril, captopril, enalapril, fosinopril, lisinopril, quinapril and ramipril, calcium channel blockers such as nifedipine, felodipine, nicardipine, isradipine, nimodipine, diltiazem and verapamil, and α -blockers such as doxazosin, urapidil, prazosin and terazosin. Further reference can be made to Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy, 19th Edition, Gennaro, Ed., Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA, 1995.

[0128] In one embodiment of the present invention, the present compounds are administered in combination with insulin, insulin derivatives or insulin analogues.

[0129] In one embodiment of the invention the insulin is an insulin derivative is selected from the group consisting of B29-N ϵ -myristoyl-des(B30) human insulin, B29-N ϵ -palmitoyl-des(B30) human insulin, B29-N ϵ -myristoyl human insulin, B29-N ϵ -palmitoyl human insulin, B28-N ϵ -myristoyl Lys^{B28} Pro^{B29} human insulin, B28-N ϵ -palmitoyl Lys^{B28} Pro^{B29} human insulin, B30-N ϵ -myristoyl-Thr^{B29}Lys^{B30} human insulin, B30-N ϵ -palmitoyl-Thr^{B29}Lys^{B30} human insulin, B29-N ϵ -(N-palmitoyl- γ -glutamyl)-des(B30) human insulin, B29-N ϵ -(N-lithocholyl- γ -glutamyl)-des(B30) human insulin, B29-N ϵ -(ω -carboxyheptadecanoyl)-des(B30) human insulin and B29-N ϵ -(ω -carboxyheptadecanoyl) human insulin.

[0130] In another embodiment of the invention the insulin derivative is B29-N ϵ -myristoyl-des(B30) human insulin.

[0131] In a further embodiment of the invention the insulin is an acid-stabilised insulin. The acid-stabilised insulin may be selected from analogues of human insulin having one of the following amino acid residue substitutions:

A21 G

A21G, B28K, B29P

A21G, B28D

A21G, B28E

A21G, B3K, B29E

A21 G, desB27

A21G, B9E

A21G, B9D

A21 G, B10E insulin.

In a further embodiment of the invention the insulin is an insulin analogue. The insulin analogue may be selected from the group consisting of

- i. An analogue wherein position B28 is Asp, Lys, Leu, Val, or Ala and position B29 is Lys or Pro; and
- ii. des(B28-B30), des(B27) or des(B30) human insulin.

In another embodiment the analogue is an analogue of human insulin wherein position B28 is Asp or Lys, and position B29 is Lys or Pro.

In another embodiment the analogue is des(B30) human insulin.

In another embodiment the insulin analogue is an analogue of human insulin wherein position B28 is Asp.

5 In another embodiment the analogue is an analogue wherein position B3 is Lys and position B29 is Glu or Asp.

[0132] In another embodiment the GLP-1 derivative to be employed in combination with a compound of the present invention refers to GLP-1(1-37), exendin-4(1-39), insulinotropic fragments thereof, insulinotropic analogues thereof and insulinotropic derivatives thereof. Insulinotropic fragments of GLP-1 (1-37) are insulinotropic peptides for which the entire sequence can be found in the sequence of GLP-1 (1-37) and where at least one terminal amino acid has been deleted. Examples of insulinotropic fragments of GLP-1 (1-37) are GLP-1 (7-37) wherein the amino acid residues in positions 1-6 of GLP-1(1-37) have been deleted, and GLP-1 (7-36) where the amino acid residues in position 1-6 and 37 of GLP-1 (1-37) have been deleted. Examples of insulinotropic fragments of exendin-4(1-39) are exendin-4 (1-38) and exendin-4(1-31). The insulinotropic property of a compound may be determined by in vivo or in vitro assays well known in the art. For instance, the compound may be administered to an animal and monitoring the insulin concentration over time. Insulinotropic analogues of GLP-1 (1-37) and exendin-4(1-39) refer to the respective molecules wherein one or more of the amino acids residues have been exchanged with other amino acid residues and/or from which one or more amino acid residues have been deleted and/or from which one or more amino acid residues have been added with the proviso that said analogue either is insulinotropic or is a prodrug of an insulinotropic compound. Examples of insulinotropic analogues of GLP-1 (1-37) are e.g. Met⁸-GLP-1(7-37) wherein the alanine in position 8 has been replaced by methionine and the amino acid residues in position 1 to 6 have been deleted, and Arg³⁴-GLP-1 (7-37) wherein the valine in position 34 has been replaced with arginine and the amino acid residues in position 1 to 6 have been deleted. An example of an insulinotropic analogue of exendin-4(1-39) is Ser²Asp³-exendin-4(1-39) wherein the amino acid residues in position 2 and 3 have been replaced with serine and aspartic acid, respectively (this particular analogue also being known in the art as exendin-3). Insulinotropic derivatives of GLP-1 (1-37), exendin-4(1-39) and analogues thereof are what the person skilled in the art considers to be derivatives of these peptides, i.e. having at least one substituent which is not present in the parent peptide molecule with the proviso that said derivative either is insulinotropic or is a prodrug of an insulinotropic compound. Examples of substituents are amides, carbohydrates, alkyl groups and lipophilic substituents. Examples of insulinotropic derivatives of GLP-1(1-37), exendin-4(1-39) and analogues thereof are GLP-1(7-36)-amide, Arg³⁴, Lys²⁶(N-(γ -Glu(N⁶-hexadecanoyl))-GLP-1(7-37) and Tyr³¹-exendin-4 (1-31)-amide. Further examples of GLP-1 (1-37), exendin-4(1-39), insulinotropic fragments thereof, insulinotropic analogues thereof and insulinotropic derivatives thereof are described in WO 98/08871, WO 99/43706, US 5424286 and WO 00/09666.

In another aspect of the present invention, the present compounds are administered in combination with more than one of the above-mentioned compounds e.g. in combination with metformin and a sulphonylurea such as glyburide; a sulphonylurea and acarbose; nateglinide and metformin; acarbose and metformin; a sulfonylurea, metformin and troglitazone; insulin and a sulfonylurea; insulin and metformin; insulin, metformin and a sulfonylurea; insulin and troglitazone; insulin and lovastatin; etc.

It should be understood that any suitable combination of the compounds according to the invention with diet and/or exercise, one or more of the above-mentioned compounds and optionally one or more other active substances are considered to be within the scope of the present invention. In one embodiment of the present invention, the pharmaceutical composition according to the present invention comprises e.g. a compound of the invention in combination with metformin and a sulphonylurea such as glyburide; a compound of the invention in combination with a sulphonylurea and acarbose; nateglinide and metformin; acarbose and metformin; a sulfonylurea, metformin and troglitazone; insulin and a sulfonylurea; insulin and metformin; insulin, metformin and a sulfonylurea; insulin and troglitazone; insulin and lovastatin; etc.

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

[0133] The compounds of the present invention may be administered alone or in combination with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients, in either single or multiple doses. The pharmaceutical compositions according to the invention may be formulated with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents as well as any other known adjuvants and excipients in accordance with conventional techniques such as those disclosed in Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy, 19th Edition, Gennaro, Ed., Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA, 1995.

[0134] The pharmaceutical compositions may be specifically formulated for administration by any suitable route such as the oral, rectal, nasal, pulmonary, topical (including buccal and sublingual), transdermal, intracisternal, intraperitoneal, vaginal and parenteral (including subcutaneous, intramuscular, intrathecal, intravenous and intradermal) route, the oral route being preferred. It will be appreciated that the preferred route will depend on the general condition and age of the subject to be treated, the nature of the condition to be treated and the active ingredient chosen.

[0135] Pharmaceutical compositions for oral administration include solid dosage forms such as hard or soft capsules, tablets, troches, dragees, pills, lozenges, powders and granules. Where appropriate, they can be prepared with coatings such as enteric coatings or they can be formulated so as to provide controlled release of the active ingredient such as sustained or prolonged release according to methods well known in the art.

5 [0136] Liquid dosage forms for oral administration include solutions, emulsions, aqueous or oily suspensions, syrups and elixirs.

[0137] Pharmaceutical compositions for parenteral administration include sterile aqueous and non-aqueous injectable solutions, dispersions, suspensions or emulsions as well as sterile powders to be reconstituted in sterile injectable solutions or dispersions prior to use. Depot injectable formulations are also contemplated as being within the scope of 10 the present invention.

10 [0138] Other suitable administration forms include suppositories, sprays, ointments, creams, gels, inhalants, dermal patches, implants etc.

[0139] A typical oral dosage is in the range of from about 0.001 to about 100 mg/kg body weight per day, preferably from about 0.01 to about 50 mg/kg body weight per day, and more preferred from about 0.05 to about 10 mg/kg body 15 weight per day administered in one or more dosages such as 1 to 3 dosages. The exact dosage will depend upon the frequency and mode of administration, the sex, age, weight and general condition of the subject treated, the nature and severity of the condition treated and any concomitant diseases to be treated and other factors evident to those skilled in the art.

20 [0140] The formulations may conveniently be presented in unit dosage form by methods known to those skilled in the art. A typical unit dosage form for oral administration one or more times per day such as 1 to 3 times per day may contain from 0.05 to about 1000 mg, preferably from about 0.1 to about 500 mg, and more preferred from about 0.5 mg to about 200 mg.

[0141] For parenteral routes such as intravenous, intrathecal, intramuscular and similar administration, typically doses are in the order of about half the dose employed for oral administration.

25 [0142] The compounds of this invention are generally utilized as the free substance or as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. Examples are an acid addition salt of a compound having the utility of a free base and a base addition salt of a compound having the utility of a free acid. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" refers to non-toxic salts of the compounds of this invention which are generally prepared by reacting the free base with a suitable organic or inorganic acid or by reacting the acid with a suitable organic or inorganic base. When a compound according 30 to the present invention contains a free base such salts are prepared in a conventional manner by treating a solution or suspension of the compound with a chemical equivalent of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid. When a compound according to the present invention contains a free acid such salts are prepared in a conventional manner by treating a solution or suspension of the compound with a chemical equivalent of a pharmaceutically acceptable base. Physiologically acceptable salts of a compound with a hydroxy group include the anion of said compound in combination with 35 a suitable cation such as sodium or ammonium ion. Other salts which are not pharmaceutically acceptable may be useful in the preparation of compounds of the present invention and these form a further aspect of the present invention.

[0143] For parenteral administration, solutions of the novel compounds of the formula (I) in sterile aqueous solution, aqueous propylene glycol or sesame or peanut oil may be employed. Such aqueous solutions should be suitably buffered if necessary and the liquid diluent first rendered isotonic with sufficient saline or glucose. The aqueous solutions 40 are particularly suitable for intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous and intraperitoneal administration. The sterile aqueous media employed are all readily available by standard techniques known to those skilled in the art.

[0144] Suitable pharmaceutical carriers include inert solid diluents or fillers, sterile aqueous solution and various organic solvents. Examples of solid carriers are lactose, terra alba, sucrose, cyclodextrin, talc, gelatine, agar, pectin, acacia, magnesium stearate, stearic acid and lower alkyl ethers of cellulose. Examples of liquid carriers are syrup, 45 peanut oil, olive oil, phospholipids, fatty acids, fatty acid amines, polyoxyethylene and water. Similarly, the carrier or diluent may include any sustained release material known in the art, such as glyceryl monostearate or glyceryl distearate, alone or mixed with a wax. The pharmaceutical compositions formed by combining the novel compounds of the present invention and the pharmaceutically acceptable carriers are then readily administered in a variety of dosage forms suitable for the disclosed routes of administration. The formulations may conveniently be presented in unit dosage 50 form by methods known in the art of pharmacy.

[0145] Formulations of the present invention suitable for oral administration may be presented as discrete units such as capsules or tablets, each containing a predetermined amount of the active ingredient, and which may include a suitable excipient. Furthermore, the orally available formulations may be in the form of a powder or granules, a solution or suspension in an aqueous or non-aqueous liquid, or an oil-in-water or water-in-oil liquid emulsion.

55 [0146] Compositions intended for oral use may be prepared according to any known method, and such compositions may contain one or more agents selected from the group consisting of sweetening agents, flavoring agents, coloring agents, and preserving agents in order to provide pharmaceutically elegant and palatable preparations. Tablets may contain the active ingredient in admixture with non-toxic pharmaceutically-acceptable excipients which are suitable for

the manufacture of tablets. These excipients may be for example, inert diluents, such as calcium carbonate, sodium carbonate, lactose, calcium phosphate or sodium phosphate; granulating and disintegrating agents, for example corn starch or alginic acid; binding agents, for example, starch, gelatin or acacia; and lubricating agents, for example magnesium stearate, stearic acid or talc. The tablets may be uncoated or they may be coated by known techniques to delay disintegration and absorption in the gastrointestinal tract and thereby provide a sustained action over a longer period. For example, a time delay material such as glyceryl monostearate or glyceryl distearate may be employed. They may also be coated by the techniques described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,356,108; 4,166,452; and 4,265,874, incorporated herein by reference, to form osmotic therapeutic tablets for controlled release.

5 [0147] Formulations for oral use may also be presented as hard gelatin capsules where the active ingredient is mixed with an inert solid diluent, for example, calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate or kaolin, or a soft gelatin capsules wherein the active ingredient is mixed with water or an oil medium, for example peanut oil, liquid paraffin, or olive oil.

10 [0148] Aqueous suspensions may contain the active compounds in admixture with excipients suitable for the manufacture of aqueous suspensions. Such excipients are suspending agents, for example sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, sodium alginate, polyvinylpyrrolidone, gum tragacanth and gum acacia; dispersing or wetting agents may be a naturally-occurring phosphatide such as lecithin, or condensation products of an alkylene oxide with fatty acids, for example polyoxyethylene stearate, or condensation products of ethylene oxide with long chain aliphatic alcohols, for example, heptadecaethyl-eneoxycetanol, or condensation products of ethylene oxide with partial esters derived from fatty acids and a hexitol such as polyoxyethylene sorbitol monooleate, or condensation products of ethylene oxide with partial esters derived from fatty acids and hexitol anhydrides, for example 20 polyethylene sorbitan monooleate. The aqueous suspensions may also contain one or more coloring agents, one or more flavoring agents, and one or more sweetening agents, such as sucrose or saccharin.

25 [0149] Oily suspensions may be formulated by suspending the active ingredient in a vegetable oil, for example arachis oil, olive oil, sesame oil or coconut oil, or in a mineral oil such as a liquid paraffin. The oily suspensions may contain a thickening agent, for example beeswax, hard paraffin or cetyl alcohol. Sweetening agents such as those set forth above, and flavoring agents may be added to provide a palatable oral preparation. These compositions may be preserved by the addition of an anti-oxidant such as ascorbic acid.

30 [0150] Dispersible powders and granules suitable for preparation of an aqueous suspension by the addition of water provide the active compound in admixture with a dispersing or wetting agent, suspending agent and one or more preservatives. Suitable dispersing or wetting agents and suspending agents are exemplified by those already mentioned above. Additional excipients, for example, sweetening, flavoring, and coloring agents may also be present.

35 [0151] The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may also be in the form of oil-in-water emulsions. The oily phase may be a vegetable oil, for example, olive oil or arachis oil, or a mineral oil, for example a liquid paraffin, or a mixture thereof. Suitable emulsifying agents may be naturally-occurring gums, for example gum acacia or gum tragacanth, naturally-occurring phosphatides, for example soy bean, lecithin, and esters or partial esters derived from fatty acids and hexitol anhydrides, for example sorbitan monooleate, and condensation products of said partial esters with ethylene oxide, for example polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate. The emulsions may also contain sweetening and flavoring agents and elixirs may be formulated with sweetening agents, for example glycerol, propylene glycol, sorbitol or sucrose. Such formulations may also contain a demulcent, a preservative and flavoring and coloring agents. The pharmaceutical compositions may be in the form of a sterile injectable aqueous or oleaginous suspension. This 40 suspension may be formulated according to the known methods using suitable dispersing or wetting agents and suspending agents described above. The sterile injectable preparation may also be a sterile injectable solution or suspension in a non-toxic parenterally-acceptable diluent or solvent, for example as a solution in 1,3-butanediol. Among the acceptable vehicles and solvents that may be employed are water, Ringer's solution, and isotonic sodium chloride solution. In addition, sterile, fixed oils are conveniently employed as solvent or suspending medium. For this purpose, 45 any bland fixed oil may be employed using synthetic mono- or diglycerides. In addition, fatty acids such as oleic acid find use in the preparation of injectables.

50 [0152] The compositions may also be in the form of suppositories for rectal administration of the compounds of the present invention. These compositions can be prepared by mixing the drug with a suitable non-irritating excipient which is solid at ordinary temperatures but liquid at the rectal temperature and will thus melt in the rectum to release the drug. Such materials include cocoa butter and polyethylene glycols, for example.

55 [0153] For topical use, creams, ointments, jellies, solutions of suspensions, etc., containing the compounds of the present invention are contemplated. For the purpose of this application, topical applications shall include mouth washes and gargles.

[0154] The compounds of the present invention may also be administered in the form of liposome delivery systems, such as small unilamellar vesicles, large unilamellar vesicles, and multilamellar vesicles. Liposomes may be formed from a variety of phospholipids, such as cholesterol, stearylamine, or phosphatidylcholines.

[0155] In addition, some of the compounds of the present invention may form solvates with water or common organic solvents. Such solvates are also encompassed within the scope of the present invention.

[0156] Thus, in a further embodiment, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to the present invention, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, or prodrug therof, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients, or diluents.

[0157] If a solid carrier is used for oral administration, the preparation may be tabletted, placed in a hard gelatine capsule in powder or pellet form or it can be in the form of a troche or lozenge. The amount of solid carrier will vary widely but will usually be from about 25 mg to about 1 g. If a liquid carrier is used, the preparation may be in the form of a syrup, emulsion, soft gelatine capsule or sterile injectable liquid such as an aqueous or non-aqueous liquid suspension or solution.

[0158] A typical tablet that may be prepared by conventional tableting techniques may contain:

Core:		
10	Active compound (as free compound or salt thereof)	5.0 mg
15	Lactosum Ph. Eur.	67.8 mg
15	Cellulose, microcryst. (Avicel)	31.4 mg
15	Amberlite®IRP88*	1.0mg
20	Magnesii stearas Ph. Eur.	q.s.
20	Coating:	
20	Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose	approx. 9 mg
20	Myvacett 9-40 T**	approx. 0.9 mg

* Polacrilin potassium NF, tablet disintegrant, Rohm and Haas.

** Acylated monoglyceride used as plasticizer for film coating.

[0159] If desired, the pharmaceutical composition of the present invention may comprise a compound according to the present invention in combination with further active substances such as those described in the foregoing. The present invention also provides a method for the synthesis of compounds useful as intermediates in the preparation of compounds of formula (I) along with methods for the preparation of compounds of formula (I). The compounds can be prepared readily according to the following reaction Schemes (in which all variables are as defined before, unless so specified) using readily available starting materials, reagents and conventional synthesis procedures. In these reactions, it is also possible to make use of variants which are themselves known to those of ordinary skill in this art, but are not mentioned in greater detail.

EXAMPLES

35 HPLC-MS (Method A)

[0160] The following instrumentation is used:

40 Hewlett Packard series 1100 G1312A Bin Pump
 Hewlett Packard series 1100 Column compartment
 Hewlett Packard series 1100 G1315A DAD diode array detector
 Hewlett Packard series 1100 MSD
 Sedere 75 Evaporative Light Scattering detector
 45 The instrument is controlled by HP Chemstation software.
 The HPLC pump is connected to two eluent reservoirs containing:

A: 0.01 % TFA in water
 B: 0.01 % TFA in acetonitrile

50 [0161] The analysis is performed at 40 °C by injecting an appropriate volume of the sample (preferably 1 µl) onto the column which is eluted with a gradient of acetonitrile.
 The HPLC conditions, detector settings and mass spectrometer settings used are given in the following table.

55	Column	Waters Xterra MS C-18 X 3 mm id 5 µm
	Gradient	5% - 100% acetonitrile linear during 7.5 min at 1.5 mL/min
	Detection	210 nm (analogue output from DAD)

(continued)

5	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%; padding: 2px;">MS</td><td style="width: 85%; padding: 2px;">ELS (analogue output from ELS) ionisation mode API-ES Scan 100-1000 amu step 0.1 amu</td></tr> </table>	MS	ELS (analogue output from ELS) ionisation mode API-ES Scan 100-1000 amu step 0.1 amu
MS	ELS (analogue output from ELS) ionisation mode API-ES Scan 100-1000 amu step 0.1 amu		

[0162] After the DAD the flow is divided yielding approximately 1 mL/min to the ELS and 0.5 mL/min to the MS.

10 **HPLC-MS (Method B)**

[0163] The following instrumentation is used:

Hewlett Packard series 1100 MSD G1946A Single quadropole mass spectrometer

Hewlett Packard series 1100 MSD G1312A Bin pump

15 Hewlett Packard series 1100 MSD G1313A ALS autosampler

Hewlett Packard series 1100 MSD G1315A diode array detector (DAD)

The HP LC/MSD ChemStation control software running on a HP Vectra computer is used for the instrument control and data acquisition.

20 The HPLC pump is connected to two eluent reservoirs containing:

A: 0.01% TFA in water

B: 0.01 % TFA in acetonitrile

25 [0164] The analysis is performed at room temperature by injecting 1 μ L of the sample solution on the column which is eluted with a gradient of acetonitrile in 0.01 % TFA.

The HPLC conditions, detector settings and mass spectrometer settings used are given in the following table.

30 Column	Waters Xterra 100A MS C-18 3.5 μ m, 3.0 mm x 50 mm
Gradient	10% - 100% acetonitrile in 0.05% TFA linearly during 4.5 min at 1.5 mL/min
Detection	UV: 210 nm (diode array)
MS	Ionisation mode: API-ES Experiment: Start: 100 amu Stop: 1000 amu Step: 0.1 amu

35

HPLC-MS (Method C)

[0165] The following instrumentation is used:

40 Sciex API 100 Single quadropole mass spectrometer

Perkin Elmer Series 200 Quard pump

Perkin Elmer Series 200 autosampler

Applied Biosystems 785A UV detector

Sedex 55 evaporative light scattering detector

45 A Valco column switch with a Valco actuator controlled by timed events from the pump. The Sciex Sample control software running on a Macintosh PowerPC 7200 computer is used for the instrument control and data acquisition.

The HPLC pump is connected to four eluent reservoirs containing:

50 A: Acetonitrile

B: Water

C: 0.5% TFA in water

D: 0.02 M ammonium acetate

55 [0166] The requirements for the samples are that they contain approximately 500 μ g/mL of the compound to be analysed in an acceptable solvent such as methanol, ethanol, acetonitrile, THF, water and mixtures thereof. (High concentrations of strongly eluting solvents will interfere with the chromatography at low acetonitrile concentrations.)

The analysis is performed at room temperature by injecting 20 μ l of the sample solution on the column, which is eluted with a gradient of acetonitrile in either 0.05% TFA or 0.002 M ammonium acetate. Depending on the analysis method

varying elution conditions are used. The eluate from the column is passed through a flow splitting T-connector, which passed approximately 20 μ l/min through approx. 1 m 75 μ fused silica capillary to the API interface of API 100 spectrometer.

5 The remaining 1.48 mL/min is passed through the UV detector and to the ELS detector. During the LC-analysis the detection data are acquired concurrently from the mass spectrometer, the UV detector and the ELS detector.

[0167] The LC conditions, detector settings and mass spectrometer settings used for the different methods are given in the following table.

10	Column	YMC ODS-A 120A s - 5 μ 3 mm x 50 mm id		
	Gradient	5% - 90% acetonitrile in 0.05% TFA linearly during 7.5 min at 1.5 mL/min		
	Detection	UV: 214 nm ELS: 40 °C		
15	MS	Experiment: Start: 100 amu	Stop: 800 amu	Step: 0.2 amu
		Dwell: 0.571 msec		
		Method: Scan 284 times = 9.5 min		

HPLC- preparative (Method D)

20 [0168] The following instrumentation is used:

Gilson pump 306 (A and B)

Gilson detector UV/Vis - 155

Gilson autosampler 215 Liquide Handler

25 The HPLC pump is connected to two eluent reservoirs containing:

A: 0.1% TFA in water

B: 100% Acetonitrile

30 [0169] The purification is performed at room temperature by injecting the sample solution on the column which is eluted with a gradient of solvent A and B.

The HPLC conditions, detector settings and mass spectrometer settings used are given in the following table.

35	Column	Phenomenex Luna 10 μ C18 (2) 100 A, size 250 x 10 mm
	Gradient	T = 0-3 min 0% B, t = 3-13 min linear from 0% to 100% B at 10 mL/min
	Detection	UV: 214 and 254 nm

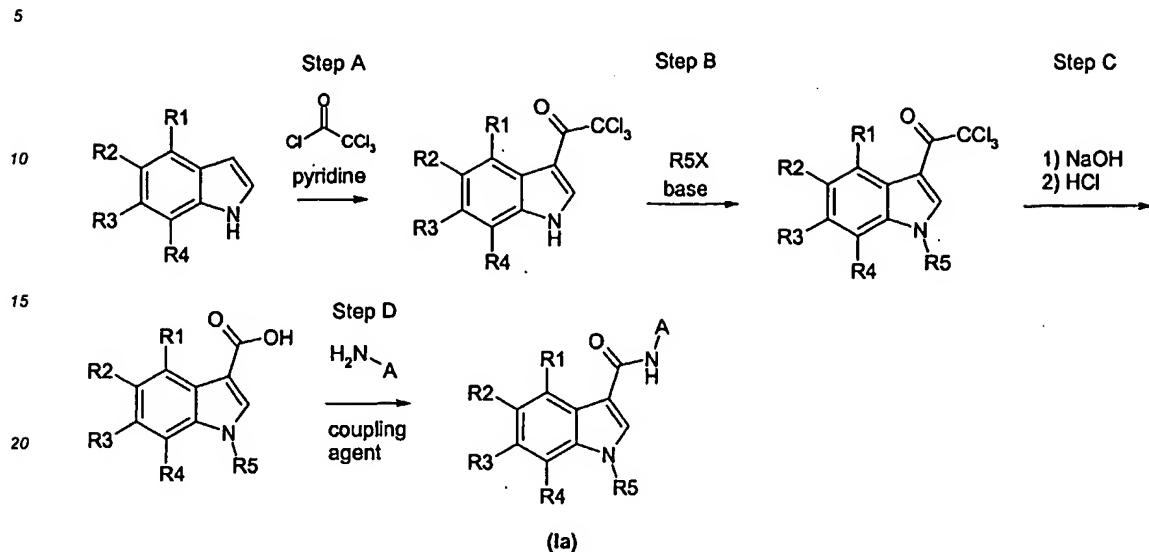
40 **List of abbreviations**

[0170]

BuOK	- Potassium tert-butoxide
45 DBU	- 1,8-Diazabicyclo[5.4.0]-undec-7-en
EDAC	- 1-(3-Dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethyl-carbodiimide hydrochloride
DIC	- 1,3-Diisopropyl carbodiimide
DCC	- 1,3-Dicyclohexyl carbodiimide
BOP	- Benzotriazole-1-yl-oxy-tris-(dimethylamino) phosphoniumhexafluorophosphate
50 PyBOP	- Bromotripyrrolidinophosphonium hexafluorophosphate
HOEt	- N-Hydroxybenzotriazole
HOAt	- 7-Aza-1-Hydroxybenzotriazole
DCM	- Dichloromethane
NMP	- N-Methylpyrrolidone
55 DMF	- N,N-Dimethylformamide

General procedure (A)

[0171] General procedure (A) for the synthesis of compounds of the general formula (Ia):



wherein R1, R2, R3, R4, R5 and A, are as defined for formula (I). The indole starting material can be either commercially available compounds or compounds that can be prepared following procedures described in the literature. In the general formula R5X, X represents chloride, bromide, iodide, mesylate or tosylate. The base used in step B can be NaH, K₂CO₃, NaOH, t-BuOK, DBU or an equivalent of these. The coupling agent in step D can be EDC, DIC, DCC, BOP, PyBOP or any equivalent of such which may be combined with HOBt or HOAt. If a carboxylic acid is desired as a part of R1, R2, R3, R4, R5 or a substituent on A, a methyl-ethyl-, isopropyl- or t-butyl ester can be taken through step A to step D and subsequently be hydrolysed using standard procedures for hydrolysis of esters. The procedure is illustrated in the following example.

35 Step A:

[0172] The indole derivative (20 mmol) was dissolved in DCM (15 mL) and pyridine (21 mmol) was added. The solution was cooled to 0°C on an ice bath before a solution of trichloroacetyl chloride (20 mmol) in DCM (5 mL) was added over the course of 30 min. The cooling bath was removed and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature (typical over night). If HPLC showed unreacted indole starting material, an amount of trichloro acetyl chloride corresponding to the amount of unreacted indole (estimated by HPLC) was added, and the mixture was stirred for an additional 2 hours before the solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The crude product was stirred with ethanol-water (1:1, 15 mL) for 10 min before the product was filtered off and dried *in vacuo* at 50°C, and used without any further purification.

45 Step B:

[0173] To the 3-trichloroacetyl-indole derivative (0.096 mmol) from step A in NMP (0.20 mL) in a 5 mL glas vial, was added K₂CO₃ (20 mg, 0.144 mmol) and alkylating agent R5X (0.125 mmol) before the reaction mixture was shaken over night at room temperature.

50

Step C:

[0174] To the solution from step B was added aqueous NaOH (0.10 mL, 4 N) and the reaction mixture was shaken for 1 hour whereupon aqueous HCl (0.60 mL, 1 N) was introduced. The aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether (2 x 1.5 mL), the two organic fractions were combined and the volatiles were removed *in vacuo*.

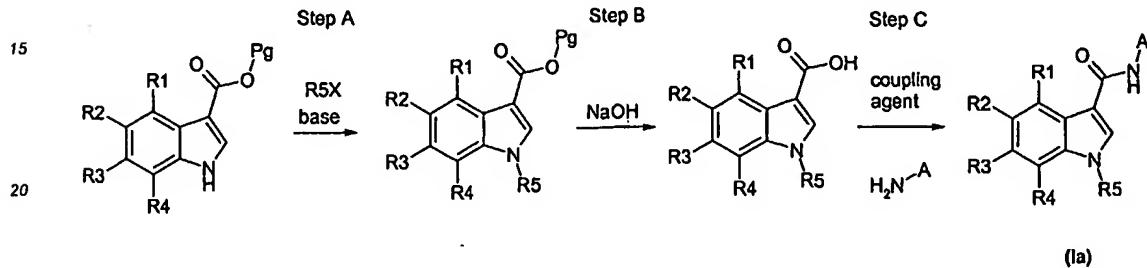
Step D:

[0175] The intermediate from step C was dissolved in NMP (0.20 mL) and HOBr (15 mg, 0.111 mmol), EDAC (37 mg, 0.192 mmol) and NH₂A (0.192 mmol) was added in sequence. The reaction mixture was heated to 120 °C for 2 hours before the reaction was allowed to cool to room temperature.
 5 The resulting mixture was applied directly on a preparative HPLC instrument (HPLC-prep. (Method D)) and fractions were collected. The fractions containing the desired compound were combined and the volatiles were removed *in vacuo*.

General procedure (B)

10

[0176] General procedure (B) for the synthesis of compounds of the general formula (Ia):



wherein R1, R2, R3, R4, R5 and A, are as defined for formula (I), and Pg is a protecting group like methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, *tert*-butyl or benzyl. The indole starting material can be either commercially available compounds or compounds that can be prepared following procedures described in the literature. In the general formula R5X, X represents chloride, bromide, iodide, mesylate or tosylate. The base used in step A can be NaH, K₂CO₃, NaOH, *t*-BuOK, DBU or an equivalent of these. The coupling agent used in step C can be EDC, DIC, DCC, BOP, PyBOP or any equivalent of such which may or may not be combined with HOBr or HOAt. The procedure is illustrated in the following example.

Step A:

[0177] The indole derivative (0.096 mmol) dissolved in NMP (0.10 mL) was added a solution of alkylating agent (R5X) (0.115 mmol) in NMP (0.20 mL) and subsequently solid K₂CO₃ (13.3 mg, 0.096 mmol). The reaction mixture was shaken at 40 °C for 24 hours.

Step B:

[0178] To the solution from step A was added aqueous NaOH (0.10 mL, 4 N) and the reaction mixture was shaken for two days whereupon aqueous HCl (0.60 mL, 1 N) was introduced. The aqueous phase was extracted with diethyl ether (2 × 1.5 mL), the two organic fractions were combined and the volatiles were removed *in vacuo*.

Step C:

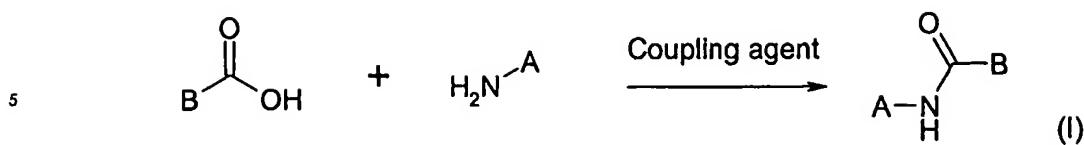
[0179] The intermediate from step B was dissolved in NMP (0.20 mL) and HOBr (15 mg, 0.111 mmol), EDAC (37 mg, 0.192 mmol) and NH₂A (19 mg, 0.192 mmol) was added in sequence. The reaction mixture was heated to 120 °C for 4 hours before the reaction was allowed to cool to room temperature.

[0180] The resulting mixture was applied directly on a preparative HPLC instrument (HPLC-prep. (Method D)) and fractions were collected. The fractions containing the desired compound were combined and the volatiles were removed *in vacuo*.

General procedure (C)

55

[0181] General procedure (C) for the synthesis of compounds of the general formula (I):



10 wherein B and A, are as defined for formula (I). The heteroarylcarnboxylic acid starting material (BCOOH) and the aminoheterocycle (NH₂A) can be either a commercially available compound or compound that can be prepared following procedures described in the literature. The coupling agent used can be EDC, DIC, DCC, BOP, PyBroP, TFFH or any equivalent of such which may or may not be combined with HOBr or HOAt and the temperature may vary from 20° to 150°C.

15 [0182] The heteroarylcarnboxylic acid (BCOOH) (0.096 mmol) was dissolved in NMP (0.20 mL) and HOBr (15 mg, 0.111 mmol), EDAC (37 mg, 0.192 mmol) and NH₂A (19 mg, 0.192 mmol) was added in sequence. The reaction mixture was heated to 120 °C for 4 hours before the reaction was allowed to cool to room temperature.

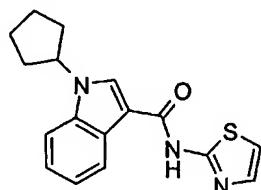
The resulting mixture was applied directly on a preparative HPLC instrument (HPLC-prep. (Method D)) and fractions were collected. The fractions containing the desired compound were combined and the volatiles were removed *in vacuo*.

20 **Example 1**

1-Cyclopentyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

25 [0183]

30



35 [0184] Methyl indole-3-carboxylate (1 g, 5.7 mmol) was dissolved in dry NMP (5 mL) under nitrogen, Bromocyclopentane (11.4 mmol) was added followed by NaH (60 %) (274 mg, 11.4 mmol). The mixture was heated to 70 °C for 2 hours. After cooling to room temperature the reaction mixture was quenched with acetic acid (1 mL), and the mixture was separated between diethyl ether (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The organic phase was isolated, dried (Na₂SO₄) and solvent removed *in vacuo*.

40 The crude material was dissolved in ethanol (10 mL) and NaOH (400 mg, 10 mmol) dissolved in water (2 mL) was added and the mixture was heated to reflux for 3 hours. After cooling to room temperature, water (50 mL) was added and the pH adjusted to pH = 2 by the addition of 1 N HCl. The mixture was washed with diethyl ether (2 x 50 mL). The organic phase was isolated, dried (Na₂SO₄) and solvent removed *in vacuo*. To give the crude derivative of indole-3-carboxylic acid that was subsequently used in the next step without any further purification.

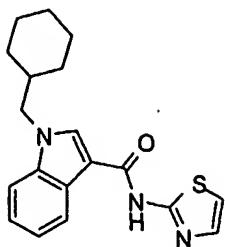
45 The crude derivative of indole-3-carboxylic acid was dissolved in NMP (5 mL), EDAC (1.09 g, 5.7 mmol) and HOBr (0.92 g, 6.84 mmol) were added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 1 hour before 2-aminothiazole (5.7 mmol) was added. The mixture was heated to 120 °C for 2 hours. After cooling to room temperature the reaction mixture was separated between diethyl ether (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The organic phase was washed with saturated aqueous Na₂CO₃ (50 mL), dried (Na₂SO₄) and the solvent removed *in vacuo*. The crude material was recrystallized from acetonitrile to give the title compound.

50 [0185] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 230 (M+1); R_f = 3.36 min.

Example 2 (Prepared in accordance with the procedure described in example1)

55 **1-CycloHexylmethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide**

[0186] R5Br = Cyclohexylmethylbromide; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole; Indole starting material = methyl indole 3-carboxylate



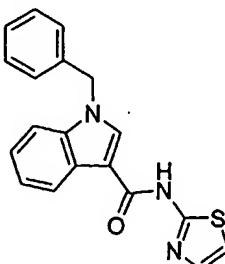
¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆): δ 12.12 (s, 1 H), 8.55 (s, 1 H), 8.25 (d, 1H), 7.61 (d, 1 H), 7.51 (d, 1 H); 7.30-7.20 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, 1H), 4.10 (d, 2H), 1.83 (m, 1H), 1.75-1.55 (m, 5H), 1.36-0.93 (m, 5H).

15 **Example 3** (Prepared in accordance with the procedure described in example1)

1-Benzyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

[0187] R5Br = Bromomethylbenzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole; Indole starting material = methyl indole 3-carboxylate

20



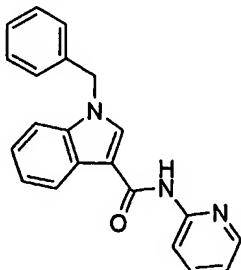
[0188] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 334 (M+1); R_t = 3.90 min.

35 **Example 4** (General procedure (B))

1-Benzyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid pyridine-2-ylamide

[0189] R5Br = Bromomethylbenzene; NH₂A = 2-aminopyridine; Indole starting material = methyl indole 3-carboxylate

40



[0190] HPLC-MS (Method B): m/z = 328 (M+1); R_t = 2.66 min.

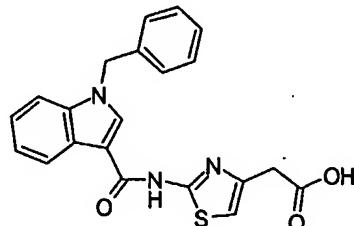
55

Example 5 (General procedure (B))

2-[(1-Benzyl-1-indole-3-carbonyl)-amino]-thiazol-4-yl)-acetic acid

5 [0191] R5X = bromomethylbenzene; NH₂A = ethyl-2-(2-amino-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)acetate; Indole starting material = methyl indole 3-carboxylate

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15

20 [0192] Ethyl 2-[(1-benzyl-1-indole-3-carbonyl)-amino]-thiazol-4-yl)-acetate obtained after step C was dissolved in EtOH (1.0 mL) and NaOH (256 µL, 4 N in water) was introduced. The reaction mixture was stirred 30 min at room temperature before HCl (1.3 mL, 1 N in water) was added whereupon a precipitate was formed. The solid material was filtered off, washed with water (5 mL) and dried *in vacuo* at 50°C for 16 hours.

25 [0193] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 414 (M+23); R_t = 3.8 min.

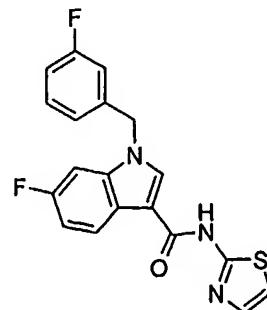
Example 6 (General procedure (A))

25

1-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-6-fluoro-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

30 [0194] Indole starting material = 6-fluoroindole; R5X = 3-fluoro-bromomethylbenzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

30



35

40

45 [0195] HPLC-MS (Method C): m/z = 370 (M+1); R_t = 4.60 min.

45

Example 7 (General procedure (A))

1-(2-Fluoro-benzyl)-6-fluoro-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

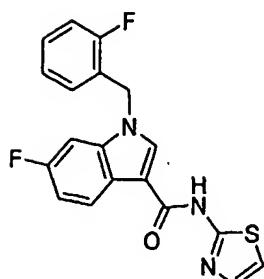
50

50 [0196] Indole starting material = 6-fluoroindole; R5X = 2-fluoro-bromomethylbenzene, NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

55

5

10



[0197] HPLC-MS (Method C): m/z = 370 (M+1); R_t = 4.60 min.

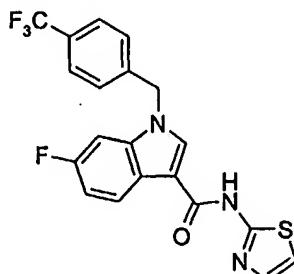
15 Example 8 (General procedure (A))

1-(4-Trifluoromethyl-benzyl)-6-fluoro-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

20 [0198] Indole starting material = 6-fluoroindole; R5X = 4-trifluoromethyl-bromomethylbenzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

25

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[0199] HPLC-MS (Method C): m/z = 420 (M+1); R_t = 5.10 min.

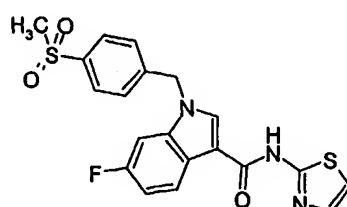
35 Example 9 (General procedure (A))

6-Fluoro-1-(4-methanesulfonyl-benzyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

40 [0200] Indole starting material = 6-fluoroindole; R5X = 4-methanesulfonyl benzylchloride; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

45

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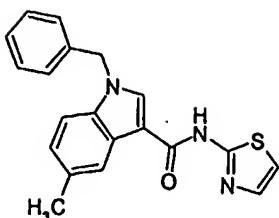


[0201] HPLC-MS (Method C): m/z = 430 (M+1); R_t = 3.9 min.

55 Example 10 (General procedure (A))

5-Methyl-1-(benzyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

[0202] Indole starting material = 5-methyl-indole; R5X = 1-bromomethylbenzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole



10

[0203] HPLC-MS (Method C): m/z = 348 (M+1); R_t = 4.7 min.

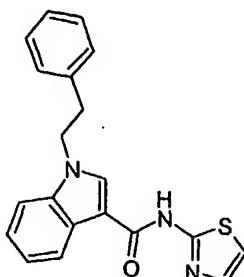
Example 11 (General procedure (A))

15

1-(Phenylethyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

[0204] Indole starting material = Indole; R5X = 2-bromoethylbenzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

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[0205] HPLC-MS (Method C): m/z = 348 (M+1); R_t = 4.5 min.

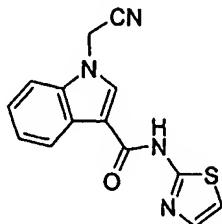
Example 12 (General procedure (A))

35

1-Cyanomethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

[0206] Indole starting material = indole; R5X = bromoacetonitrile, NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

40



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[0207] HPLC-MS (Method C): m/z = 283 (M+1); R_t = 3.20 min.

Example 13

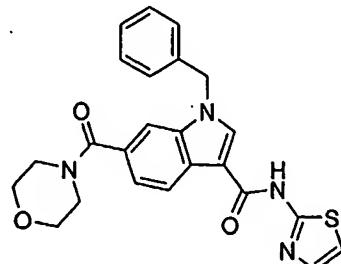
1-Benzyl-6-(morpholine-4-carbonyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

[0208] Indole-6-carboxylic acid (0.60 g, 3.7 mmol) was dissolved in DCM (15 mL) and carbonyl diimidazole (0.63 g, 3.9 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was refluxed under N_2 for 30 min. The mixture was allowed to cool to

room temperature before morpholine (0.39 g, 4.5 mmol) was added and the reaction mixture was refluxed for 16 hours. The mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature before it was washed in sequence with HCl (50 mL, 1 N in water), NaOH (50 mL, 1 N in water) and brine (50 mL). The organic phase was dried with MgSO_4 , and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give 0.74 g of (1 H-indol-6-yl)-morpholin-4-yl-methanone.

5 This compound was transformed to the title compound according to General procedure (A), using $\text{R}5\text{X}$ = bromomethylbenzene; NH_2A = 2-aminothiazole.

10



15

20 [0209] HPLC-MS (Method C): m/z = 477 (M+1); R_t = 3.40 min.

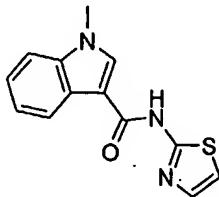
Example 14

1-Methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

25

[0210] 1-Methyl-1 H-indole-3-carboxylic acid and 2-aminothiazole was coupled and purified according to the conditions described in General Procedure (B), Step C).

30



35

40 [0211] HPLC-MS (Method B): m/z = 258 (M+1); R_t = 3.16 min.

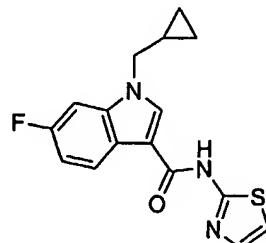
Example 15 (General procedure (A))

1-Cyclopropylmethyl-6-fluoro-1 H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

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[0212] Indole starting material = 6-fluoroindole; $\text{R}5\text{X}$ = Cyclopropylmethylbromide; NH_2A = 2-aminothiazole

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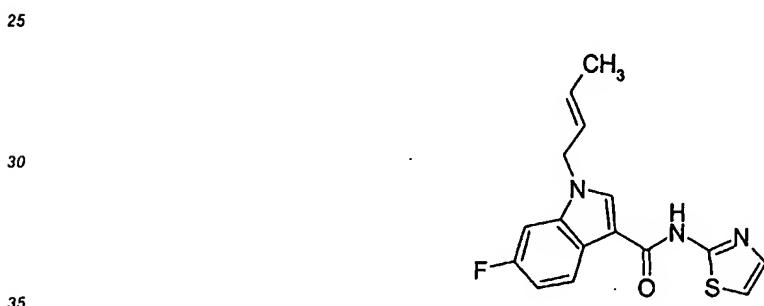
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[0213] HPLC-MS (Method B): m/z = 316 (M+1); R_t = 4.06 min.

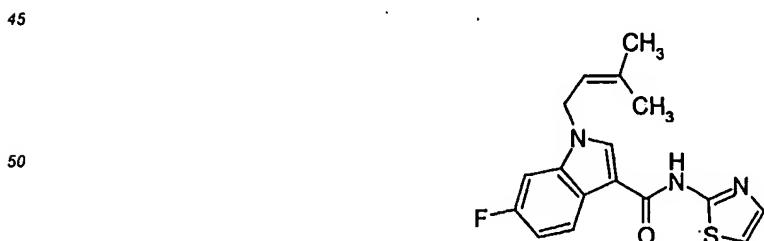
Example 16 (General procedure (B))

6-Fluoro-1-prop-2-ynyl-1*H*-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide5 [0214] Indole starting material = 6-fluoroindole; R5X = propargylbromide; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole[0215] HPLC-MS (Method B): m/z = 300 (M+1); R_t = 4.0 min.

Example 17 (General procedure (A))

10 1-But-2-enyl-6-fluoro-1*H*-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide20 [0216] Indole starting material = 6-fluoroindole; R5X = crotylbromide; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole[0217] HPLC-MS (Method B): m/z = 316 (M+1); R_t = 4.6 min.

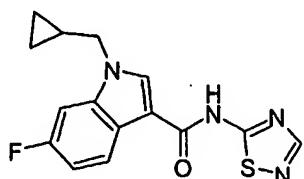
Example 18 (General procedure (A))

40 6-Fluoro-1-(3-methyl-but-2-enyl)-1*H*-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide45 [0218] Indole starting material = 6-fluoroindole; R5X = 3,3-dimethylallylbromide; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole55 [0219] HPLC-MS (Method B): m/z = 330 (M+1); R_t = 4.8 min.

Example 19 (General procedure (A))**1-Cyclopropylmethyl-6-fluoro-1*H*-indole-3-carboxylic acid [1,2,4]thiadiazol-5-ylamide**

5 [0220] Indole starting material = 6-fluoroindole; R5X = bromomethylcyclopropane; NH₂A = [1,2,4]-thiadiazole-5-ylamine

10



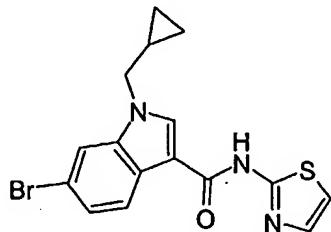
15

[0221] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 317 (M+1); R_t = 3.9 min.

Example 20 (General procedure (A))**6-Bromo-1-cyclopropylmethyl-1*H*-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide**

20 [0222] Indole starting material = 6-bromoindole; R5X = bromomethylcyclopropane; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

25



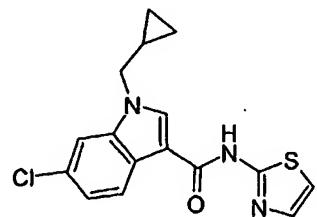
30

[0223] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 378 (M+1); R_t = 4.31 min.

Example 21 (General procedure (A))**6-Chloro-1-cyclopropylmethyl-1*H*-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide**

40 [0224] Indole starting material = 6-chloroindole; R5X = bromomethylcyclopropane; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

45

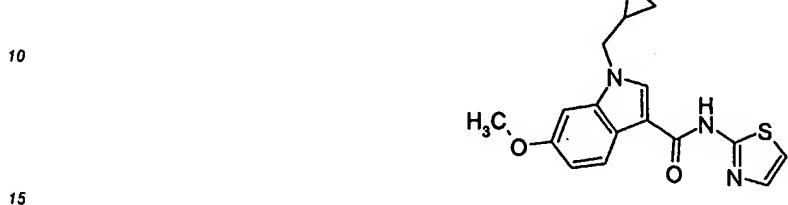


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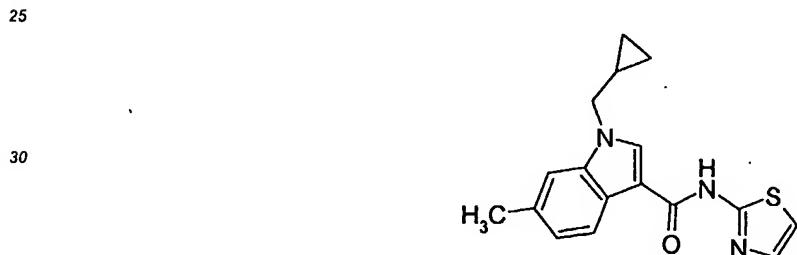
[0225] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 332 (M+1); R_t = 4.2 min.

55

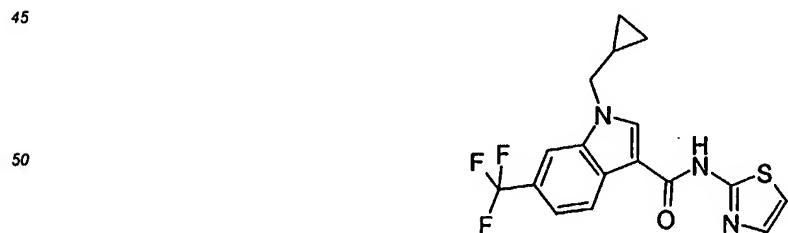
Example 22 (General procedure (A))

1-Cyclopropylmethyl-6-methoxy-1*H*-Indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide[0226] Indole starting material = 6-methoxyindole; R5X = bromomethylcyclopropane; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole[0227] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 328 (M+1); R_t = 3.6 min.

Example 23 (General procedure (A))

1-Cyclopropylmethyl-6-methyl-1*H*-Indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide[0228] Indole starting material = 6-methylindole; R5X = bromomethylcyclopropane; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole[0229] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 312 (M+1); R_t = 3.9 min.

Example 24 (General procedure (A))

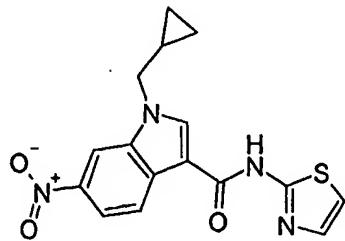
1-Cyclopropylmethyl-6-trifluoromethyl-1*H*-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide[0230] Indole starting material = 6-trifluoromethylindole; R5X = bromomethylcyclopropane; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole[0231] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 366 (M+1); R_t = 4.4 min.

Example 25 (General procedure (A))**1-Cyclopropylmethyl-6-nitro-1*H*-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide**

5 [0232] Indole starting material = 6-nitroindole; R5X = bromomethylcyclopropane; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

10

15



[0233] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 343 (M+1); R_t = 4.0 min.

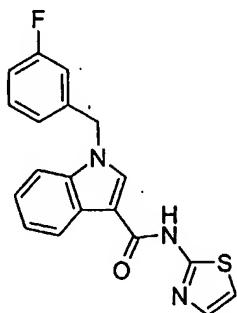
20 **Example 26 (General procedure (B))**

1-(3-Fluoro-benzyl)-1*H*-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

25 [0234] R5X = 1-Bromomethyl-3-fluoro-benzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole; Indole starting material = methyl indole 3-carboxylate

30

35



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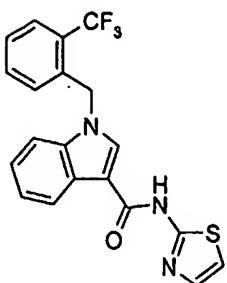
[0235] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 352 (M+1); R_t = 4.04 min.

Example 27 (General procedure (B))**1-(2-Trifluoro-benzyl)-1*H*-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide**

45 [0236] R5X = 1-Bromomethyl-2-trifluoromethyl-benzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole; Indole starting material = methyl indole 3-carboxylate

50

55



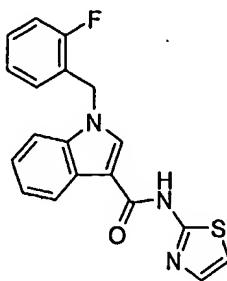
[0237] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 402 (M+1); R_t = 4.47 min.

15

Example 28 (General procedure (B))

1-(2-Fluoro-benzyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

20 [0238] R5X = 1-Bromomethyl-2-fluoro-benzene, NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole; Indole starting material = methyl indole 3-carboxylate



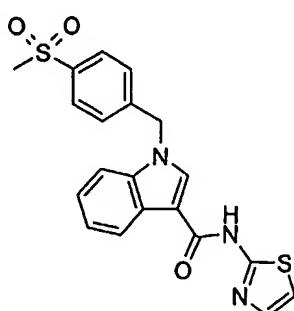
35 [0239] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 352 (M+1); R_t = 4.03 min.

Example 29 (General procedure (B))

1-(4-Methanesulfonyl-benzyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

40

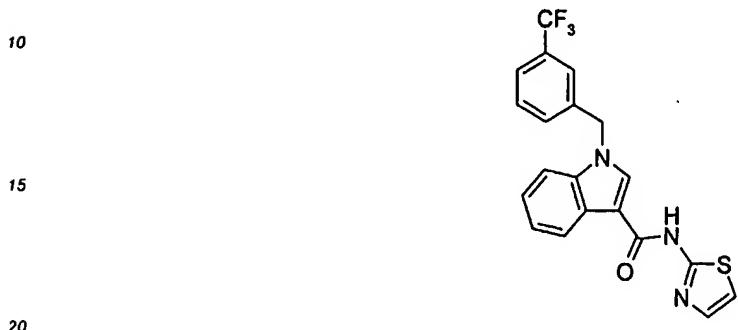
[0240] R5X = 1-Bromomethyl-4-methanesulfonyl-benzene, NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole; Indole starting material = methyl indole 3-carboxylate



[0241] HPLC-MS (Method C): m/z = 412 (M+1); R_t = 3.39 min.

Example 30 (General procedure (B))**1-(3-Trifluoro-benzyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide**

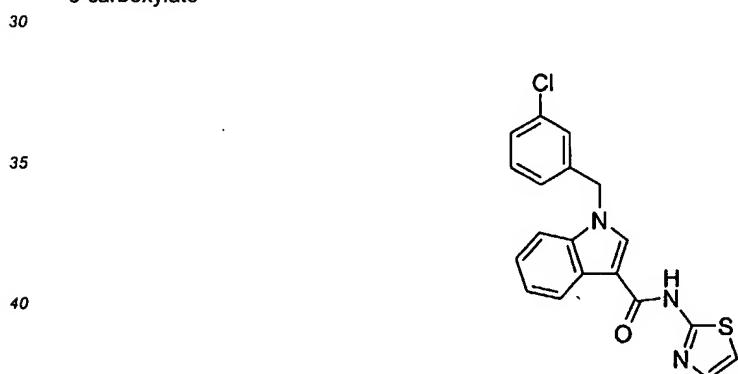
5 [0242] R5X = 1-Bromomethyl-3-trifluoromethyl-benzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole; Indole starting material = methyl
indole 3-carboxylate



[0243] HPLC-MS (Method C): m/z = 402 (M+1); R_t = 4.39 min.

Example 31 (General procedure (B))**1-(3-Chloro-benzyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide**

25 [0244] R5X = 1-Bromomethyl-3-chloro-benzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole; Indole starting material = methyl indole
3-carboxylate



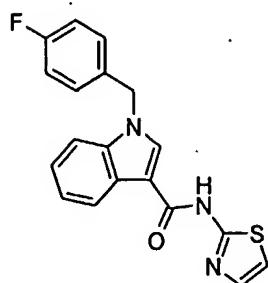
45 [0245] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 368 (M+1); R_t = 4.27 min.

Example 32 (General procedure (B))**1-(4-Fluoro-benzyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide**

50 [0246] R5X = 1-Bromomethyl-4-fluoro-benzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole; Indole starting material = methyl indole
3-carboxylate

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[0247] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 352 (M+1); R_t = 4.05 min.

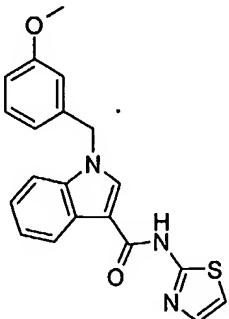
15 Example 33 (General procedure (B))

1-(3-Methoxy-benzyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

20 [0248] R5X = 1-Bromomethyl-3-methoxy-benzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole; Indole starting material = methyl indole 3-carboxylate

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[0249] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 364 (M+1); R_t = 4.00 min.

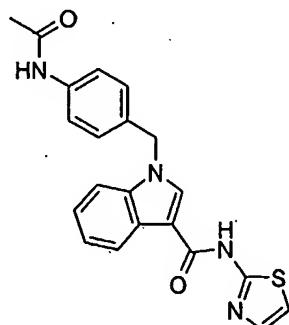
Example 34 (General procedure C)

40 **1-(4-Acetylaminobenzyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide**

45 [0250] R5X = N-(4-chloromethylphenyl)-acetamide; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole; Indole starting material = methyl indole 3-carboxylate

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[0251] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 391 (M+1); R_t = 3.27 min.

Example 35 (General procedure (B))

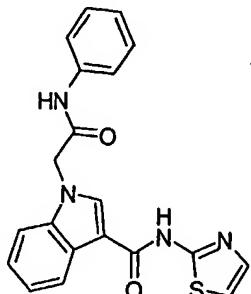
5 **1-Phenylcarbamoylmethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide**

[0252] R5X = 2-chloro-N-phenylacetamide; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole; Indole starting material = methyl indole 3-carboxylate

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[0253] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 377 (M+1); R_t = 3.5 min.

25 Example 36 (General procedure (A))

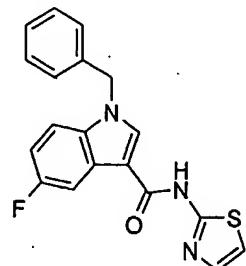
1-Benzyl-5-fluoro-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

[0254] Indole starting material = 5-fluoroindole; R5X = Bromomethylbenzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

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[0255] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 352 (M+1); R_t = 4.14 min.

45 Example 37 (General procedure (A))

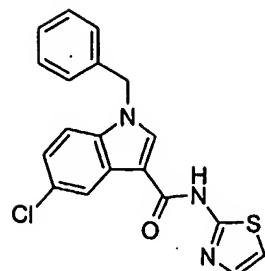
1-Benzyl-5-chloro-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

[0256] Indole starting material = 5-chloroindole; R5X = bromomethylbenzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

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[0257] HPLC-MS (Method B): m/z = 368 (M+1); R_t = 4.46 min.

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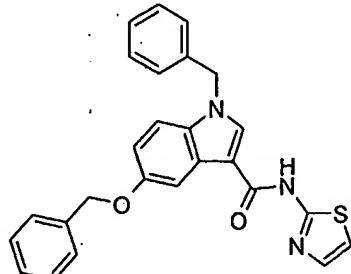
Example 38 (General procedure (A))

1-Benzyl-5-benzyloxy-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

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[0258] Indole starting material = 5-benzyloxyindole; R5X = bromomethylbenzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

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[0259] HPLC-MS (Method B): m/z = 440 (M+1); R_t = 4.72 min.

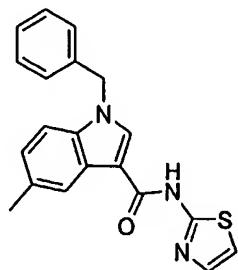
Example 39 (General procedure (A))

1-Benzyl-5-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

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[0260] Indole starting material = 5-methylindole; R5X = bromomethylbenzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

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[0261] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 348 (M+1); R_t = 4.24 min.

55

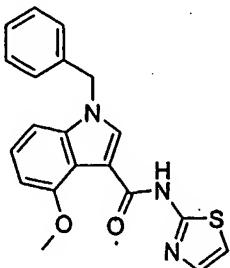
Example 40 (General procedure (A))

1-Benzyl-4-methoxy-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

5 [0262] Indole starting material = 4-methoxyindole; R5X = Bromomethylbenzene, NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

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[0263] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 364 (M+1); R_f = 3.92 min.

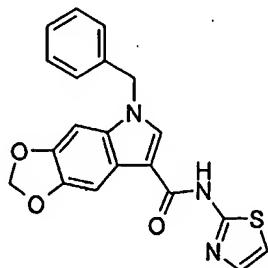
Example 41 (General procedure (A))

5-Benzyl-5H-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-f]indole-7-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

25 [0264] Indole starting material = 5,6-methylenedioxyindole; R5X = bromomethylbenzene, NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

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[0265] HPLC-MS (Method B): m/z = 378 (M+1); R_f = 3.90 min.

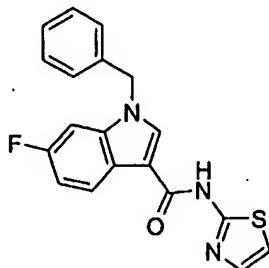
Example 42 (General procedure (A))

1-Benzyl-6-fluoro-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

45 [0266] Indole starting material = 6-fluoroindole; R5X = bromomethylbenzene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

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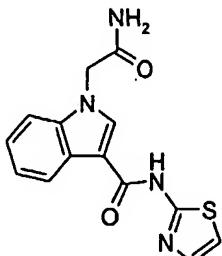
[0267] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 352 (M+1); R_t = 4.16 min.

Example 43 (General procedure (A))

5 1-Carbamoylmethyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

[0268] Indole starting material = indole; R5X = 2-bromo-acetamide; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

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[0269] HPLC-MS (Method C): m/z = 301 (M+1); R_t = 2.40 min.

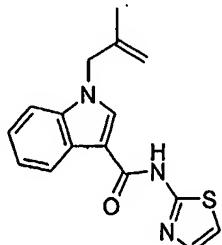
Example 44 (General procedure (A))

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1-(2-Methyl-allyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

[0270] Indole starting material = indole; R5X = 3-bromo-2-methyl-propene; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

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[0271] HPLC-MS (Method C): m/z = 298 (M+1); R_t = 4.00 min.

Example 45 (General procedure (A))

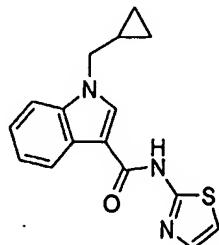
45

1-Cyclopropyl-methyl-1H-indole-3-carboxylic acid thiazol-2-ylamide

[0272] Indole starting material = indole; R5X = cyclopropyl-methylbromide; NH₂A = 2-aminothiazole

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[0273] HPLC-MS (Method C): m/z = 298 (M+1); R_t = 4.00 min.

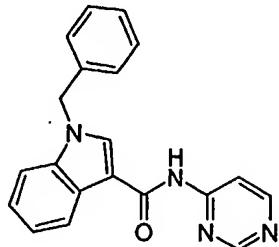
Example 46

5 1-Benzyl-1*H*-indole-3-carboxylic acid pyrimidin-4-ylamide

[0274]

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20 [0275] 1-Benzylindole-3-carboxylic acid (25.9 mg, 96 mmol) was dissolved in $SOCl_2$ (1 mL) and the mixture was stirred for 30 min before the volatiles were removed *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in MeCN (200 μ L) and added to a solution of pyrimidin-4-yl-amine (10 mg, 105 mmol) in NMP (200 μ L). The reaction mixture was stirred 16 hours at room temperature before the MeCN was removed *in vacuo*. The residue was purified using HPLC method D to give title compound.

25 [0276] HPLC-MS (Method A): m/z = 329 (M+1); R_t = 3.3 min.

PHARMACOLOGICAL METHODS

BIOLOGICAL ASSAY

30

Glucokinase Activity Assay (I)

35 [0277] Glucokinase activity is assayed spectrometrically coupled to glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase to determine compound activation of glucokinase. The final assay contains 50 mM Hepes, pH 7.1, 50 mM KCl, 5 mM $MgCl_2$, 2 mM dithiothreitol, 0.6 mM NADP, 1 mM ATP, 0.195 μ M G-6-P dehydrogenase (from Roche, 127 671), 15 nM recombinant human glucokinase. The glucokinase is human liver glucokinase N-terminally truncated with an N-terminal His-tag ((His)₈-VEQILA.....Q466) and is expressed in E.coli as a soluble protein with enzymatic activity comparable to liver extracted GK.

40 The purification of His-tagged human glucokinase (hGK) was performed as follows: The cell pellet from 50 ml E. coli culture was resuspended in 5 ml extraction buffer A (25 mM HEPES, pH 8.0, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM mercaptoethanol) with addition of 0.25 mg/ml lysozyme and 50 μ g/ml sodium azide. After 5 minutes at room temperature 5 ml of extraction buffer B (1.5 M NaCl, 100 mM $CaCl_2$, 100 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.02 mg/ml DNase 1, protease inhibitor tablet (Complete[®] 1697498): 1 tablet pr. 20 ml buffer) was added. The extract was then centrifuged at 15.000 g for 30 minutes. The resulting supernatant was loaded on a 1 ml Metal Chelate Affinity Chromatography (MCAC) Column charged with Ni^{2+} . The column is washed with 2 volumes buffer A containing 20 mM imidazole and the bound his-tagged hGK is subsequently eluted using a 20 minute gradient of 20 to 500 mM imidazole in buffer A. Fractions are examined using SDS-gel-electrophoresis, and fractions containing hGK (MW: 52 KDa) are pooled. Finally a gelfiltration step is used for final polishing and buffer exchange. hGK containing fractions are loaded onto a Superdex 75 (16/60) gelfiltration column and eluted with Buffer B (25 mM HEPES, pH 8.0, 1 mM $MgCl_2$, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM Dithiothreitol).

45 The purified hGK is examined by SDS-gel electrophoresis and MALDI mass spectrometry and finally 20% glycerol is added before freezing. The yield from 50 ml E. coli culture is generally approximately 2-3 mg hGK with a purity >90%. The compound to be tested is added into the well in final 2.5% DMSO concentration in an amount sufficient to give a desired concentration of compound, for instance 1, 5, 10, 25 or 50 μ M. The reaction starts after glucose is added to a final concentration of 2, 5, 10 or 15 mM. The assay uses a 96-well UV plate and the final assay volume used is 200 μ l/well. The plate is incubated at 25°C for 5 min and kinetics is measured at 340 nm in SpectraMax every 30 seconds for 5 minutes. Results for each compound are expressed as the fold activation of the glucokinase activity compared to the activation of the glucokinase enzyme in an assay without compound after having been subtracted from a "blank", which is without glucokinase enzyme and without compound. The compounds in each of the Examples exhibits acti-

vation of glucokinase in this assay. A compound, which at a concentration of at or below 30 μ M gives 1.5 - fold higher glucokinase activity than the result from the assay without compound, is deemed to be an activator of glucokinase. [0278] The glucose sensitivity of the compounds are measured at a compound concentration of 10 μ M and at glucose concentrations of 5 and 15 mM.

5

Glucokinase Activity Assay (II)

Determination of glycogen deposition in isolated rat hepatocytes:

[0279] Hepatocytes are isolated from rats fed *ad libitum* by a two-step perfusion technique. Cell viability, assessed by trypan blue exclusion, is consistently greater than 80%. Cells are plated onto collagen-coated 96-well plates in basal medium (Medium 199 (5.5 mM glucose) supplemented with 0.1 μ M dexamethasone, 100 units/ml penicillin, 100 mg/ml streptomycin, 2 mM L-glutamine and 1 nM insulin) with 4 % FCS at a cell density of 30,000 cells/well. The medium is replaced with basal medium 1 hour after initial plating in order to remove dead cells. Medium is changed after 24 hours to basal medium supplemented with 9.5 mM glucose and 10 nM insulin to induce glycogen synthesis, and experiments are performed the next day. The hepatocytes are washed twice with prewarmed (37°C) buffer A (117.6 mM NaCl, 5.4 mM KCl, 0.82 mM Mg₂SO₄, 1.5 mM KH₂PO₄, 20 mM HEPES, 9 mM NaHCO₃, 0.1% w/v HSA, and 2.25 mM CaCl₂, pH 7.4 at 37°C) and incubated in 100 μ l buffer A containing 15 mM glucose and increasing concentrations of the test compound, such as for instance 1, 5, 10, 25, 50 or 100 μ M, for 180 minutes. Glycogen content is measured using standard procedures(Agius, L. et al, Biochem J. 266, 91-102 (1990)). A compound, which when used in this assay gives an significant increase in glycogen content compared to the result from the assay without compound, is deemed to have activity in this assay.

Glucokinase Activity Assay (III)

25

Stimulation of insulin secretion by glucokinase activators in INS-1E cells

[0280] The glucose responsive β -cell line INS-1E is cultivated as described by Asfari M et al., Endocrinology, 130, 167-178 (1992). The cells are then seeded into 96 well cell culture plates and grown to a density of approximately 5 \times 10⁴ per well. Stimulation of glucose dependent insulin secretion is tested by incubation for 2 hours in Krebs Ringer Hepes buffer at glucose concentrations from 2.5 to 15 mM with or without addition of glucokinase activating compounds in concentrations of for instance 1, 5, 10, 25, 50 or 100 μ M, and the supernatants collected for measurements of insulin concentrations by ELISA (n= 4). A compound, which when used in this assay gives an significant increase in insulin secretion in response to glucose compared to the result from the assay without compound, is deemed to have activity in this assay.

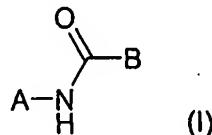
[0281] While the invention has been described and illustrated with reference to certain preferred embodiments thereof, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various changes, modifications and substitutions can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. For example, effective dosages other than the preferred dosages as set forth herein may be applicable as a consequence of variations in the responsiveness of the mammal being treated for glucokinase-deficiency mediated disease(s). Likewise, the specific pharmacological responses observed may vary according to and depending on the particular active compound selected or whether there are present pharmaceutical carriers, as well as the type of formulation and mode of administration employed, and such expected variations or differences in the results are contemplated in accordance with the objects and practices of the present invention.

45

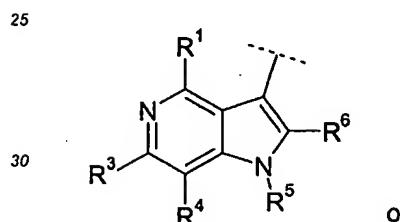
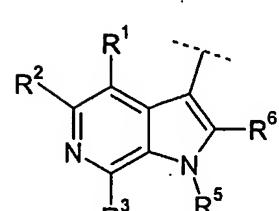
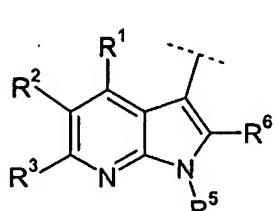
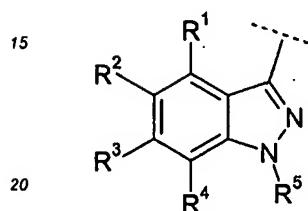
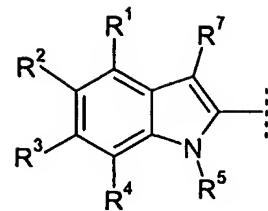
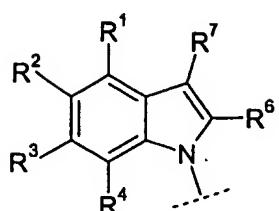
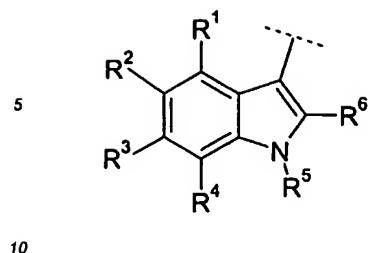
Claims

1. A compound represented by the general formula (I),

50



wherein B is



35 R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁶, and R⁷ are independently selected from the group consisting of

- hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃; or
- -NR¹⁰R¹¹; or
- C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, C₁₋₆-alkylthio, arylthio, heteroarylthio, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkylthio, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkylthio, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfinyl, arylsulfonyl, heteroaryl sulfonyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonyl, -C(O)-O-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyloxy, amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylamino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, di-(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfamoyl, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)sulfamoyl, C₁₋₆-alkylsulfonamoyl or di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)sulfonamoyl each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R¹²; or
- -CO-NR¹³R¹⁴;

40 R¹⁰ and R¹¹ independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -C(O)-C₁₋₆-alkyl-C(O)OH, -S(O)₂CH₃, or aryl;

45 R¹² is halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂;

R¹³ and R¹⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R¹⁵; or R¹³ and R¹⁴ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocycle such as piperazine, homopiperazine or morpholine;

50 R¹⁵ is halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂;

55 R⁵ is selected from

- C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{2-6} -alkenyl, C_{2-6} -alkynyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkenyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkyl-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, C_{3-8} -cycloalkenyl-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, C_{1-6} -alkylcarbamoyl-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, di-(C_{1-6} -alkyl)carbamoyl-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R³²; or
- aryl-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, aryl-C(O)-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, aryl-O-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, or aryl-S-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, wherein the aryl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁰; or
- heteroaryl-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, wherein the heteroaryl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁶; or
- -C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl-C(O)-NR²⁸R²⁹ or -C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl-NR²⁸R²⁹; wherein the alkyl part may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R³³; or
- -C(O)NR³⁰R³¹;

R³² and R³³ are independently halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂
R²⁰ is

- hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, CF₃, hydroxy, carboxy; or
- -C(O)-O-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkoxy, C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylthio, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylsulfonyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylsulfinyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylsulfamoyl, di-(C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl)sulfamoyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylsulfinamoyl, di-(C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl)sulfinamoyl, carboxy-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, amino-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylamino C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, di-(C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl)amino-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl or hydroxy-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²¹; or
- —NR²²R²³ or -C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl-NR²²R²³ optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R³⁴; or
- —CONR²⁴R²⁵;

R²¹ is halogen, nitro, cyano, CF₃, hydroxy, C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, -S(O)₂NH₂ or carboxy;
R²² and R²³ are independently selected from hydrogen, -C(O)-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl or C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl;
R²⁴ and R²⁵ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, hydroxy-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, carboxy-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, or R²⁴ and R²⁵ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocycle such as piperazine, homopiperazine or morpholine;
R²⁶ is

- hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy; or
- -C(O)-O-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkoxy, C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, sulfonyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylthio, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylsulfonyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylsulfinyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylsulfamoyl, di-(C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl)sulfamoyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylsulfinamoyl, di-(C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl)sulfinamoyl, carboxy-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, amino-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylamino C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, di-(C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl)amino-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl or hydroxy-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁷;

R²⁷ is halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, or carboxy;
R²⁸ and R²⁹ are independently selected from hydrogen, -C(O)-O-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, -C(O)-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl or C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl;
R³⁰ and R³¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, hydroxy-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, carboxy-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, or R³⁰ and R³¹ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocycle such as piperazine, homopiperazine or morpholine;
R³⁴ is halogen, nitro, cyano, CF₃, hydroxy, C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, -S(O)₂NH₂ or carboxy;

A is thiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, pyrazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, tetrazolyl, 3-oxo-pyrazolyl, 3-oxo-imidazolyl, 3-oxo-thiazolyl, thiazolidinyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, 1,3,5-triazinyl, 1,2,4-triazinyl, benzimidazolyl, 4-oxo-pyrimidyl, pyridazinyl or 2-oxo-pyrimidyl, each of which may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁴⁰, R⁴¹ and R⁴².

R⁴⁰, R⁴¹ and R⁴² are independently selected from

- halogen, carboxy, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, -CF₃, -SCN; or
- C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkoxy, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylthio, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylamino, di-(C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl)amino, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylsulfonyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylsulfinyl, -C(O)-O-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, -C(O)-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, -NH₂-C(O)-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, -C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl-O-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, -C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl-S-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, carboxy-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, di-(C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl)amino-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, C $_{1-6}$ -alkylamino-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl or hydroxy-C $_{1-6}$ -alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁴³; or

- aryl, heteroaryl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkoxy, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkylthio, heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkylthio, heteroaryl-thio-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, arylthio, heteroarylthio, arylsulfonyl, heteroaryl(sulfonyl), aryl-C₁₋₆-alkylamino, each of which is optionally substituted on the aryl or heteroaryl part with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁴⁴; or
- 5 • C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted on the cycloalkyl part with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁴⁵; or
- -NR⁴⁶R⁴⁷, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-NR⁴⁶R⁴⁷, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-S-R⁴⁸ -C₁₋₆-alkyl-S(O)-R⁴⁸, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-S(O)₂-R⁴⁸ wherein each alkyl part may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁵²; or
- 10 • -CONR⁴⁹R⁵⁰, -C₁₋₆-alkyl-CONR⁴⁹R⁵⁰ optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁵³; or

two of R⁴⁰, R⁴¹ and R⁴² can be taken together to form a C₂₋₅-alkylene bridge;

15 R⁴³, R⁴⁴, and R⁴⁵ are independently C₁₋₆-alkyl, halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂;
 R⁴⁶ and R⁴⁷ independently represent hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or R⁴⁴ and R⁴⁵ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocycle such as piperazine, homopiperazine or morpholine;

20 R⁴⁸ is selected from

- C₁₋₆-alkyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylamino-C₁₋₆-alkyl or hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl; or
- aryl, heteroaryl, aryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, or heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, wherein the aryl or heteroaryl part is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁵¹; or
- 25 • C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl.

30 R⁴⁹ and R⁵⁰ are independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆-alkyl.
 R⁵¹ is halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, or carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl.
 R⁵² and R⁵³ are independently C₁₋₆-alkyl, halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃, -S(O)₂CH₃, or -S(O)₂NH₂
 as well as any salt hereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, or any optical isomer or mixture of optical isomers, including a racemic mixture, or any tautomeric forms, with the exception of the compounds

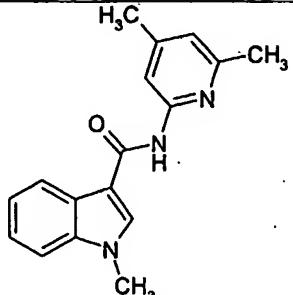
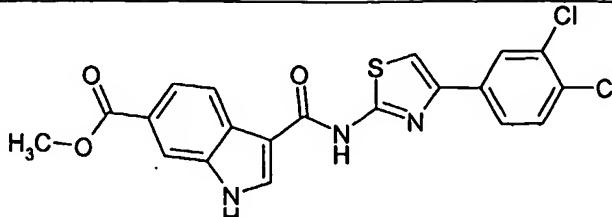
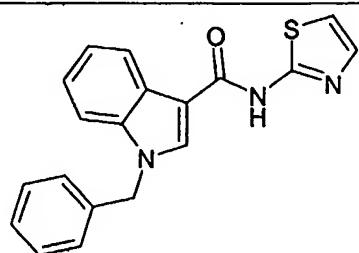
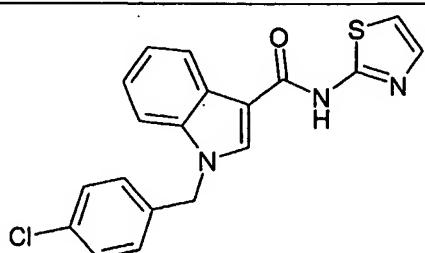
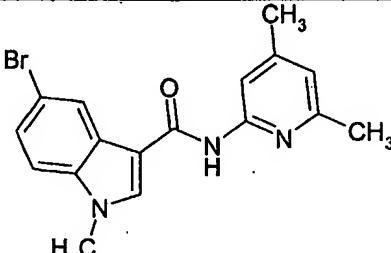
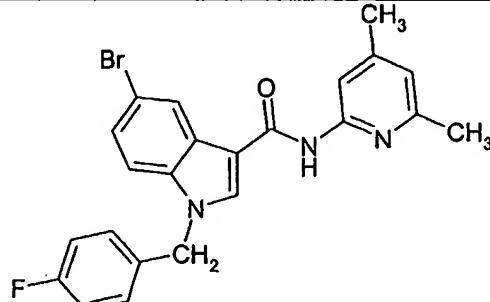
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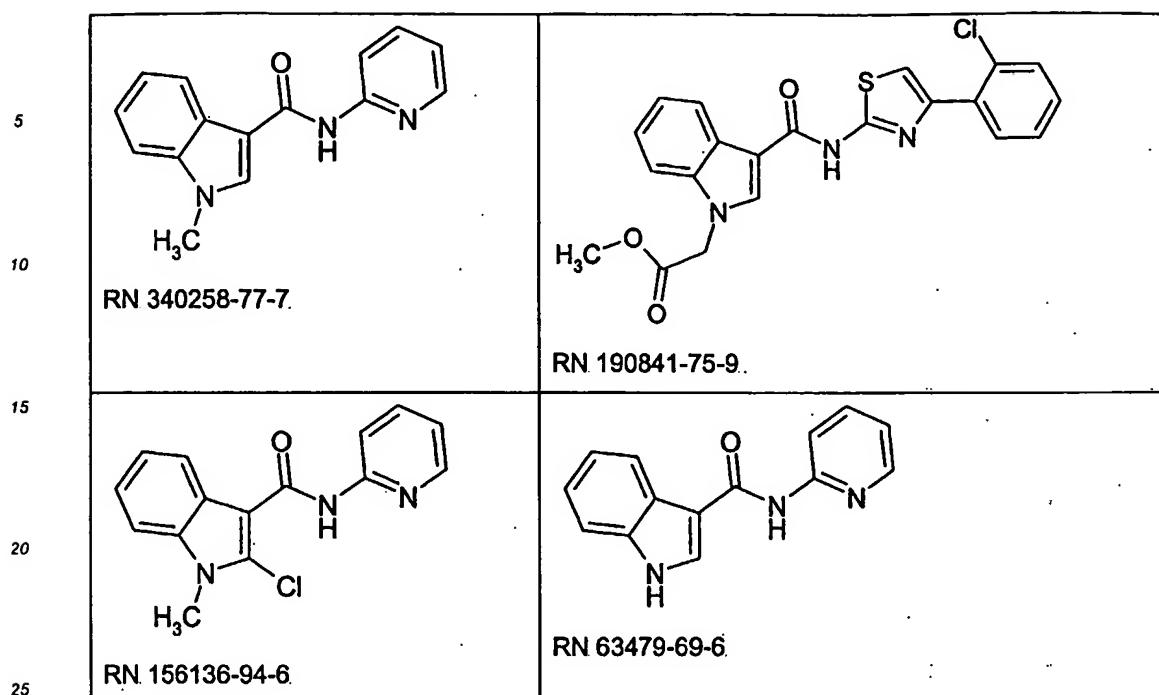
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 <p>5 10 RN 521276-49-3</p>	 <p>15 RN 444572-53-6</p>
 <p>20 RN 449742-58-9</p>	 <p>25 RN 449742-59-0</p>
 <p>30 N 400071-99-0</p>	 <p>35 R RN 400072-03-9</p>
<p>40</p>	

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and with the proviso that if A is thiazolyl and B is indolyl, then A cannot be substituted in the 4-position with

• C_{5-8} -cycloalkyl optionally substituted with C_{1-4} -alkyl,
 • aryl optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from halogen, C_{1-6} -alkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxy or C_{1-3} thioalkoxy, nitro, CF_3 ,
 • heteroaryl substituted with one or more substituents selected from C_{1-3} -alkyl or halogen

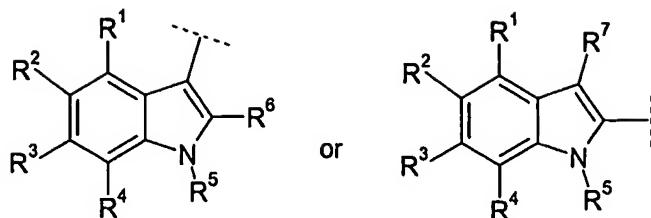
and with the proviso that if A is thiadiazolyl and B is unsubstituted indolyl or indolyl substituted on the nitrogen atom with

• $-C(O)-C_{1-4}$ -alkyl,
 • $-(CH_2)_nC(O)R$ wherein n is 1 or 2 and R is OR^1 , or NR^1R^2 , R^1 , R^2 , being selected from H or C_{1-4} -alkyl,
 • Hydroxy- C_{1-4} -alkyl,
 • C_{2-6} alkoxyalkyl,
 • tetrahydropyranyl,

then A cannot be substituted in the 3-position with

• phenyl, pyridine, or pyrimidine, each of which may optionally be substituted with up to four substituents selected from Cl, Br, C_{1-3} -alkyl, or C_{1-3} alkoxy and CF_3 ,
 naphtyl optionally substituted with halogen, C_{1-3} -alkyl, or C_{1-3} alkoxy.

50 2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein B is



3. A compound according to any one of the claims 1 or 2 wherein A is thiazolyl or 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl, each of which may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁴⁰, R⁴¹ and R⁴².

15 4. A compound according to any one of the claims 1 to 3 wherein R', R², R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from the group consisting of

- hydrogen, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, carboxy, -CF₃; or
- -NR¹⁰R¹¹; or
- C₁₋₆-alkyl, benzyl, C₁₋₆-alkoxy, benzyloxy, phenyl, C₁₋₆-alkyl-carbonyl, carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alkyl, di(C₁₋₆-alkyl)amino-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₁₋₆-alkylamino-C₁₋₆-alkyl or carboxy-C₁₋₆-alkyloxy, each of which is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R¹²; or
- -CO-NR¹³R¹⁴.

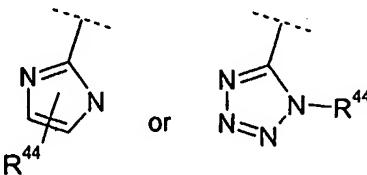
20 5. A compound according to any one of the claims 1 to 4 wherein R⁵ is selected from

- C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₂₋₆-alkenyl, C₂₋₆-alkynyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, C₃₋₈-cycloalkenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, cyanomethyl, carboxymethyl, C₁₋₆-alkylcarbamoylmethyl, di-(C₁₋₆-alkyl)carbamoylmethyl; each of which may optionally be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R³²; or
- Phenyl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, wherein the phenyl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁰; or
- Heteroaryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl, wherein the heteroaryl part is selected from furyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, pyranyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, 1,2,3-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, indolyl, isoindolyl, benzofuryl, benzothienyl, benzimidazolyl, benzoxazolyl, purinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, or thiazolidinyl, and the heteroaryl group may be substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from R²⁶; or
- -C₁₋₆-alkyl-NR²⁸R²⁹; or
- -CONR³⁰R³¹.

25 6. A compound according to any one of the claims 1 to 5 wherein R⁴⁰, R⁴¹ and R⁴² are independently selected from

- halogen, cyano, -CF₃, -SCN; or
- methyl, ethyl propyl, butyl, methoxy, ethoxy, -C(O)-CH₃, -C(O)-CH₂CH₃, -CH₂OH, -CH₂CH₂OH, -(CH₂)₂-N(CH₃)₂, -CH₂-O-CH₂, -CH₂CH₂-O-CH₂, -CH₂-S-CH₂, -CH₂CH₂-S-CH₂; or
- phenyl-methyl, phenyl-ethyl, naphtyl-methyl, naphtyl-ethyl, heteroaryl-methyl, heteroaryl-ethyl, phenyl-methylthio, phenyl-ethylthio, heteroaryl-methylthio, heteroaryl-ethylthio, heteroaryl-thio-methyl, heteroaryl-thio-ethyl, each of which is optionally substituted on the aryl or heteroaryl part with one or more substituents independently selected from R⁴⁴ and wherein heteroaryl is selected from

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or

- Cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopropyl-methyl, cyclobutyl-methyl, cyclopentyl-methyl, cyclohexyl-methyl, cyclopropyl-ethyl, cyclobutyl-ethyl, cyclopentyl-ethyl, cyclohexyl-ethyl, each of which is optionally substituted on the cycloalkyl part with one or more substituents independently selected from R¹⁵; or

5 two of R⁴⁰, R⁴¹ and R⁴² can be taken together to form a C₂₋₅-alkylene bridge.

7. Use of a compound according to any one of the claims 1 to 6 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of type 2 diabetes.

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European Patent
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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention EP 03 38 8079
shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent
proceedings, as the European search report

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	WO 03 091213 A (YONETOKU YASUHIRO ;SHIRAKI RYOTA (JP); MOMOSE KAZUHIRO (JP); OGUYA) 6 November 2003 (2003-11-06) Table 2, compounds 9,10; Table 3, compounds 33,34,73-78; Table 4 * claim 1 *	1-7	A61K31/427 A61P3/06 A61P3/10 C07D417/12 C07D401/12 C07D491/04 C07D403/12
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		-/-	
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely :</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched :</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search:</p> <p>see sheet C</p>			
1	Place of search MUNICH	Date of completion of the search 26 March 2004	Examiner Johnson, C
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		<p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>	
<small>EPO FORM 1500.02 (P04C07)</small>			



Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
X	<p>DUFLOS M ET AL: "N-Pyridinyl-indole-3-(alkyl)carboxamides and derivatives as potential systemic and topical inflammation inhibitors" EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY, EDITIONS SCIENTIFIQUE ELSEVIER, PARIS, FR, vol. 36, no. 6, June 2001 (2001-06), pages 545-553, XP004372866 ISSN: 0223-5234 * examples 11,13 *</p> <p>---</p>	1,2,4-6	
X	<p>UNANGST P C ET AL: "Novel indolecarboxamidotetrazoles as potential antiallergy agents" JOURNAL OF MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY, AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, WASHINGTON, US, vol. 32, no. 6, 1989, pages 1360-1366, XP002229123 ISSN: 0022-2623 * table IV *</p> <p>---</p>	1,2,4,5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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X	OELGEN ET AL.: "Syntheses and biological evaluation of indole-2 and 3-carboxamides: new selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitors" PHARMAZIE, vol. 57, no. 4, 2002, pages 238-242, XP001180468 * examples 6-9,17,18,20,24,25 *	1-6	
X	PALMER ET AL.: "Tyrosine kinase inhibitors. 4. Structure-activity relationships among N- and 3-substituted 2,2'-dithiobis(1H-indoles) for in vitro inhibition of receptor and nonreceptor protein tyrosine kinases" J. MED. CHEM., vol. 38, 1995, pages 58-67, XP002275100 * examples 11S,11T *	1,2,4,5	
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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 03 38 8079

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
X	OELGEN ET AL. : "Synthesis and antioxidant properties of novel N-substituted indole-2-carboxamide and indole-3-acetamide derivatives" ACTA PHARM. PHARM. MED. CHEM., vol. 7, 2002, pages 331-338, XP002275101 * examples 2,3,6,8 *	1,2,4-6	
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European Patent
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INCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET C

Application Number
EP 03 38 8079

Claim(s) searched incompletely:
1-7(part)

Reason for the limitation of the search:

The initial phase of the search revealed a very large number of documents relevant to the issue of novelty. So many documents were retrieved that it is impossible to determine which parts of the claim(s) may be said to define subject-matter for which protection might legitimately be sought (Article 84 EPC). For these reasons, a meaningful search over the whole breadth of the claim(s) is impossible. The documents cited in the search report merely represent a selection of the novelty-destroying documents found.

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 03 38 8079

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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26-03-2004

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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